



# REDEEMED

## VOCATIONAL SCHOOL

FEBRUARY 2024

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*Discouraged  
but Hopeful,  
Fearful but Believing,  
Troubled but Trusting  
Claiming  
not just victory but  
OVERWHELMING  
VICTORY  
THROUGH THE LOVE OF  
CHRIST!*

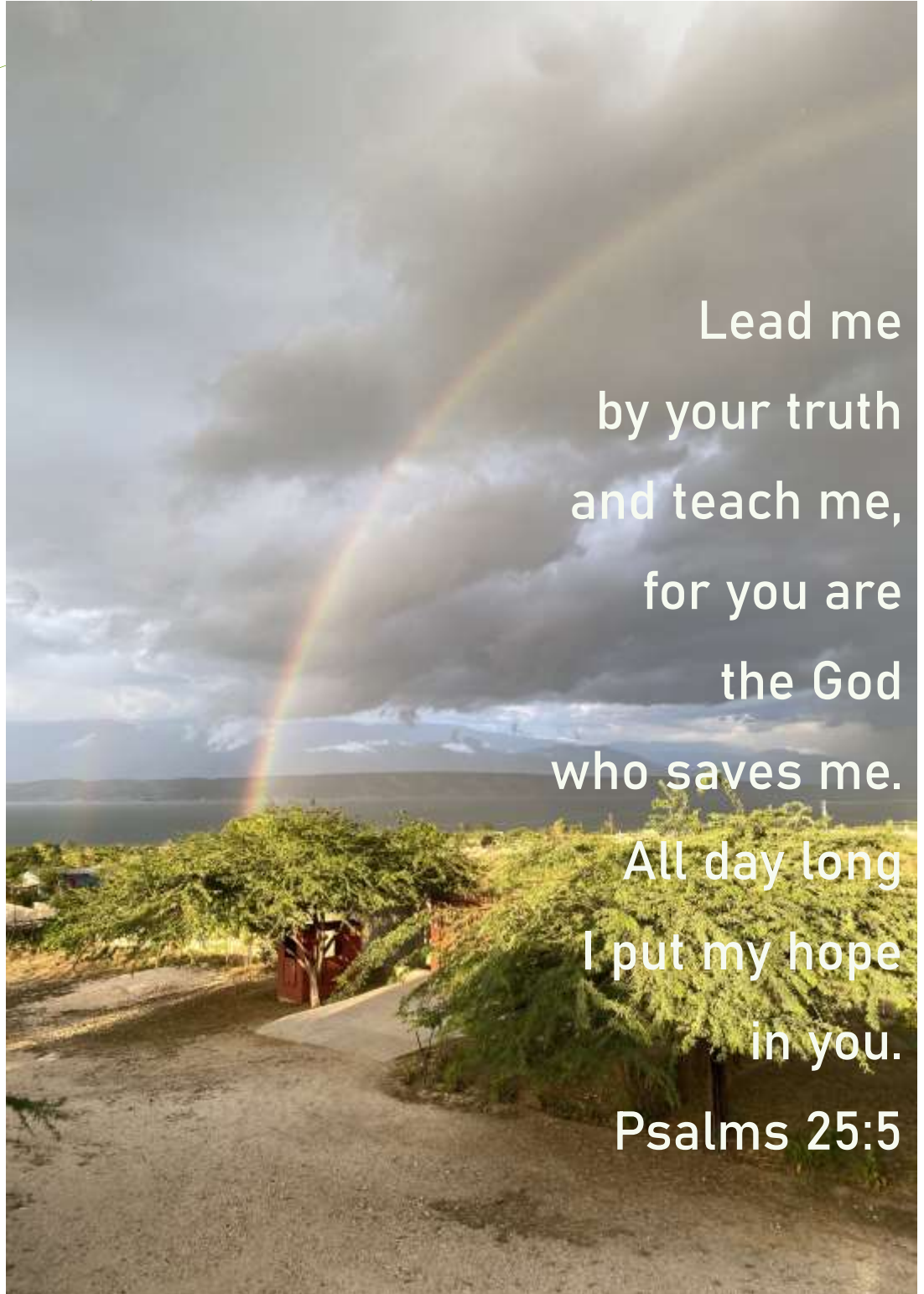
Please join us in praying...

- For God's love to be clearly displayed in all we do and say
- For wisdom, direction, and strength to fulfill our responsibilities
- For every teacher, student, and staff member and the role they fill at RVS

Lead me  
by your truth  
and teach me,  
for you are  
the God  
who saves me.

All day long  
I put my hope  
in you.

Psalms 25:5



# [OUR ONLY HOPE IS IN GOD]

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Our only hope continues to be in God. Every day we humans make this world a messier place to live in. This has been a rather depressing newsletter to write. Life here in Haiti has not improved. Some things are about the same and some things are more complicated.

The gang situation in Haiti remains unchanged. They still control the road to Port-au-Prince and everyone pays for the "privilege" of passing through, if they are lucky enough to not be kidnapped. Everything is expensive and difficult, and everyone is trying to leave.

For the past 2 years we've done most of our shopping in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic : car parts, food, school supplies, etc. However, in September, the Dominican government closed their borders to Haiti. They said it was in protest of an irrigation canal that Haiti is building for a river that originates in the DR and passes into Haiti. It is unclear if they think their water levels will be affected or if they think Haiti won't buy as much produce from DR if they grow more of their own. We tend to think that it serves more as an excuse to deport Haitians rather than an actual reason for the border closures. (Relations between Dominican Republic and Haiti have been strained for a long time. Many Haitians are living there illegally. In the interest of fairness, however, it should be noted that the DR makes it impossible for most Haitians to fulfill their visa requirements. A visa can cost up to \$600 US dollars, is only good for one year, and requires you to stamp back into Haiti every thirty days.)

The Dominican Republic reopened their border after almost a month, but they only welcomed Haitians to come buy from them and that is all. Haiti retaliated by closing their border until the DR would come to a more "normal" agreement. The impasse lasted until December when Haiti relented for holiday shopping. However, the DR does not give visas anymore, and the only way to travel to Santo Domingo is to take a truck to buy in bulk.

We haven't traveled since August, but we'll see what happens when we're ready to try again. Since the border closure, we've been making a ten-hour trip over extreme mountain roads to



# [OUR ONLY HOPE IS IN GOD]

(CONT.)

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Jacmel for all our banking and shopping needs. In some ways it's easier, (I only have 1 currency to deal with instead of 3) but it's a super exhausting trip.

Another crisis is making most of the other problems facing our country pale in comparison. Our prime minister was implicated in the assassination of our president but, for a long time no one seemed to care. However, after years of instability that are still getting worse, riots have closed down the Port-au-Prince airport, and our prime minister has resigned. This crisis is still ongoing and **because of the unstable border situation it's** been difficult for people to leave the country. Please join us in prayer that peace will be restored and specifically for the airport to re-open.

On a much lighter note, Redeemed Vocational School had an excellent year! We graduated a hundred students in September!

Graduation is always a huge blessing – it's a chance to celebrate the good things in our life with our students and their family and friends. It's a chance to appreciate everything they've learned and accomplished. Attendance was probably at least twice as much as last year. I'm guessing up to 800 people attended, and every vehicle in our small town was there.

It was a little overwhelming to see just how many lives our little school has touched. We praise God for his abundance in the middle of so much darkness, and pray for a brighter future.

Rejoice with us for every blessing God has poured out on us and pray for our country. Pray for peace and for a competent and fair government.

*Hoping in God,*

*Wismith & Rebecca Joseph*



# FULL CLASSROOMS

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# [ WORK PROJECTS ]

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# GRADUATION 2023

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# [ THE REASON WE ARE HERE ]

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## THANK YOU...

To **every person who prays, visits, donates, encourages, and shares about RVS**  
FOR INVESTING A PORTION OF YOUR LIVES IN HELPING RVS FULFILL GOD'S PURPOSES IN FOND PARISIEN, HAITI

◀◀◀ MAY GOD BLESS AND KEEP YOU ALWAYS ▶▶▶



## THANK YOU...

To **HAITI BENEFIT AUCTION STATE BOARDS**

FOR INVITING US TO PARTICIPATE IN YOUR STATE AUCTIONS

## THANK YOU...

To **GOD OUR GENEROUS FATHER**

FROM WHOM COMES EVERY GOOD AND PERFECT GIFT

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