



REDEEMED

VOCATIONAL SCHOOL

BY THE GRACE OF GOD

MARCH 2022

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Unfortunately, life in Haiti has not improved since our last newsletter. After the president was assassinated, kidnappings multiplied, the availability and lack of fuel fluctuates, and we all live in fear. Living life with the very real possibility of danger is a very different way of living than many of us have ever experienced. We cannot tell you how to navigate it and how to make decisions for yourself and those you are responsible for — we can only tell you that we are living one day at a time. Today we live in Haiti. Today we have a ministry that God gave us. Today God protected us and our loved ones. Today, by the grace of God, Redeemed Vocational School is still thriving and classes continue as if we live in a safe country. We have so much to thank God for as await the promised peace and deliverance of the return of Jesus!

*Be strong,
and let your heart take courage,
all you who wait for the LORD!*

Psalm 31:24

Politically, all the people appointed by President Jovenel have been forced out of the government and the 'opposition' is in power once again. This whole security catastrophe was caused by a power struggle in the government for who controls the government contracts. There is a surprising amount of money—literally millions—that could provide all the infrastructure Haiti needs if it were used for this country instead of lining the pockets of a few of the rich and powerful. We still have not had elections for the next president, and we could be faced with even more chaos before that happens. We

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



do not know the future, but we have placed our lives in the hand of God and we keep taking one step at a time and trusting God for each new day.

*For God
has not given us a spirit of fear,
but one of power, love,
and sound judgment.
2 Timothy 1:7*

Our students are mostly from our town, but this year we had a few from back in the mountains, and even one from a small town across the lake — adults and young people with whom God entrusted us! We owe a huge debt of gratitude to our teachers and office staff who worked so diligently to get us to this point, and especially to God who so richly blesses us!

Our classes have grown significantly in the past few months. Since going to Port-au-Prince has become so risky, we have more students staying local to study. Even though life in Haiti is difficult and many missionaries have chosen to leave for now, we thank God that Redeemed Vocational School is not only surviving, but also thriving by the grace of God.



[BY THE GRACE OF GOD]

(CONT.)

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In 2020, we did not have a graduation because of covid restrictions, so we were doubly excited to celebrate again in the fall of 2021. Over 80 students graduated the past two years and it was so nice to celebrate something good and to count our blessings!



Times are dark all over the world, and Haiti is still slowly worsening. We thought the situation was bad. but it seems things can always get worse. Recently 400 Mawozo blocked the road in Kwade Bouquet cutting off all vehicles traveling west into Port au Prince. Wismith had made a rare trip into Port that same day so he was stuck on the other side of the road block and I was stuck here at home. It's a very bewildering feeling and one we'd rather not repeat ever again.

When it became clear that the gang had no intention of re-opening the road Wismith's brother took his passport to him by moto (this could have gone badly- they usually stop and search everyone passing through, but God was merciful!) then they drove to the Dominican Republic through the closest border north of here and crossed back in to Haiti the next morning— 10 days after a 'simple' trip into Port-au-Prince. For those of you that aren't familiar with Haiti - we live around 5 miles from the border between Haiti and the Dominican Republic [in Fond Parisien (green dot on this map) bordering Etang Saumatre (lake)] - so even if the road to Port-au-Prince is blocked we can leave Haiti and travel to the DR without any problems. Most visitors fly into Santo Domingo instead of Haiti because it's safer - or at least more predictable.



The point of this story is that life has been difficult. We weren't the only family separated by the roadblocks, and many people were even closer to the shootings. We're all suffering. Food prices kept going up and rice was getting scarce when they finally opened up over 3 weeks later. We can't go anywhere or even make plans for the future because we have no idea what the future will bring.

[PLEASE PRAY...]

THE EFFECTIVE, FERVENT PRAYER OF A RIGHTEOUS PERSON AVAILS MUCH. JAMES 5:16

[YOUTH NIGHT]

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In the middle of this, Aaron and Wendy Lavy braved Haiti to bring us all a little sunshine!



[COUPLES NIGHT]

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In addition to a great evening for youth, Aaron and Wendy also planned a Couples Night — this may seem nicely ordinary to many of you, but for Haitian culture this is a *really big deal* — we will attempt to explain a bit. Relationships usually start in secret — the why and how is hard to understand, but that's just the way it is. This is slowly changing with the younger generation, but most older couples grew up this way. There aren't a lot of activities for couples to do together here. Most places that sell food don't have seating and of the few that do most couples would only go on very special occasions. In church, most couples sit separately even without segregated seating. It takes missionaries years to figure out who belongs with who because we rarely see them together.

Seeing so many couples come together and enjoy an evening of sharing

stories and experiences, a meal, and a small gift, especially amidst the darkness and struggle of Haiti, was very meaningful!



[COUPLES NIGHT]

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Being able to host events like these at RVS is also a special blessing and we are grateful for the opportunity to use this property to not only train and empower young people, but also to encourage and inspire couples, families, and churches in our community.



A very big **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 ▶▶▶



A very big **THANK YOU...**

To **HAITI BENEFIT AUCTION STATE BOARDS**

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A very big **THANK YOU...**

To **GOD OUR GENEROUS FATHER**

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