

Trust and Persevere

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Agape Update on Haiti

In the face of unending chaos and insecurity, it would be easy to fall into despair and depression. These are the conditions that our Haitian leadership have faced for over two years. What is their resource that keeps them moving forward and looking at the future in a positive light? The answer is YOU. Because you support the work that God is doing through Agape Christian Mission, they have hope in Jesus. This hope drives them forward without fear of what tomorrow brings. It is such a humbling experience to direct this mission and witness first hand the conditions and situations that these Haitian brother and sisters face on a daily basis. They let God direct their path and trust in His provision. He is all they have and they do their best to serve others in the way He directs. This past year, the compound programs have more than doubled in size. We are serving the

community with Agape love and they respond with trust. As the hope and peace of Jesus draws more people to our compound, it is necessary for the mission's leadership to recognize and do our best to let our supporters know of the growth and needs in the coming months.

The three major programs on our compound include;

1. Hebron Church Outreach
2. Agape Christian Academy
3. Agape Malnutrition Clinic

Each one of these programs will be highlighted in this newsletter with more detailed explanation of the services provided and projected needs in the coming months.

This mission would not exist without our support base. Your faithfulness in prayers and financial support is the lifeline to move these programs forward in Haiti.

You have our sincere thanks and the applause of nail pierced hands.



Special points of interest:

- God is in control and is faithful to hear our prayers.
- The mission continues to grow and serve the needs of the church, school, clinic and community of Bremen.

Current Conditions in Haiti

This is general information on the conditions in the country of Haiti.

I sound like a broken record with some of this news but it is the truth of the chaos and violence going on in the country at this time.

Gangs are at war in the capital city and over all of Haiti. They

are at war with each other for control of territorial space within the country. Roads remain blocked to the flow of any fuel, food, clean water, general supplies and aid coming from the capital. Any relief aid can only be distributed by missionary plane services. Reports of cholera are true. The population across Haiti is

now beginning to rise up against the government in protests nationwide. This further disrupts the limited supply deliveries by mission flights to our compounds. The Prime Minister of Haiti just asked the UN for help. This opens the door for military help from outside countries. Please pray for help soon.

Hebron Church Update

The Hebron Church on the Bremen Compound is continuing to adjust to the change in Pastor's with the passing of Pastor Sergot. We are using a ministerial team of 5 pastors to preach and serve the people. Pastor Emilio is the lead Pastor. The church has grown with new membership as was evidenced in March with the Baptism of over 150 people. Some of those baptized attend sister churches within our outreach area. It was an encouragement to witness this beautiful event first hand. The church service was also encouraging and it lifted my spirit with the music and praises.

The local community is accepting of the church and the benevolent work that we provide but there is a need to reach these people for Jesus. Pray with us for new outreach to show these folks their need for the Hope in Jesus.

The buildings and grounds of the compound are being maintained well with the exception of the exterior gutters and window security ironwork. Documentation of the repairs needed and estimates for the cost are being obtained. A report was given reminding the Pastors that the building maintenance was the responsibility of the church. The guttering is essential to our water capture system for the compound cistern. This is one of the challenges faced by the mission. It is an opportunity to teach the Haitians that they must assume responsibility for the gifts God gives them. Please pray with me that the leadership will understand this responsibility and take it to the church body to do the necessary repairs and routine painting of the metal for the salt water rust which is constant. When you serve a society that for a century has been served with

help from the international community, you must be prayerfully careful to know, When Helping Hurts. Entitlement is easy to learn and very hard to break. We see this in our country also.

The church facility has seen many weddings, ministerial conferences and funerals over the past three years. It continues to be a very valuable facility to a community that had no other large gathering place. The Hebron Church is also a refuge during tropical storms and other natural disasters, like earthquakes. It is used to distribute food to the most needy each month. The mission was blessed to be able to build this facility and continues to thank God for His guidance and goodness.

Bremen Compound most critical need

For the past four years we have spent time and labor to create a large covered cistern as a water reservoir for the compound. We are using a water capture system which involves capturing the water from tropical rains as it runs off the large church roof. It is initially stored in an elevated 500 gallon holding tank on the side of the church. As the need arises for the more water to be added to the cistern, we use a PVC gravity fed

Clean water would mean several common diseases and skin infections could be eliminated from the community we serve.

water flow from the holding tank to the cistern. With the establishment of the water containment, we now need a proven water purification system. Research of several systems has brought us to the Water for the World system which uses electrolysis of pure salt into a concentrated hypochlorous solution which purifies hundreds of gallons of water in just a couple of hours. This method kills all bacteria,

viruses and parasites that can often contaminate the water in Haiti. Linda is scheduling a visit to the headquarters of Water for Life in Underwood, Indiana to research the system and learn the operation and maintenance. The Board will then have the report and make a decision the potential purchase and use of this system on the compound. This would be a \$3,000 investment with operating costs added to the budget. Please help us pray over this visit and decision. It would be so beneficial to the community we serve. Many diseases and skin conditions would be eliminated with clean water.

Carpenter's Hands Project Report

In 2018 we started this project after identifying the living conditions some of our Church families. Initially we were partnering with 2x4s for Hope to build wood frame houses with two bedrooms, bath and kitchen areas. After the pandemic and political unrest in Haiti, wood is no longer an option. We have explored traditional Haitian construction from block and rebar. This is more expensive but our only option.

The cost to build has doubled. We now have a donor who has supplied the extra funds so that we can move forward with the first house. The mission owns three building lots just outside the compound at Bremen. The first house is for a family of 4. Brother Yves is now a leader in the Bremen church. His wife and twin daughters need a safe place to live that does not leak, is more than one room and is in a safe place for the girls as

they grow.

This is such an exciting project which will have life changing affects for a family in our church at Bremen.

If you would like to help sponsor another home for our next family, please contact Linda for details. Pray for this house to be a blessing to our entire church family.

Agape Christian Academy Update

As we approach another school year, the outlook in 2022-2023 academic year will have several new courses. This year's enrollment will be the highest ever realized by ACA. There are 130 students scheduled to start school. We have added 5th grade this year which means that we have the largest teaching staff ever in the school's history. ACM will also offer a beginning computer course for the older students. Thank you Computer Pros for donating 5 computers for this class.

Our school is operated through sponsorships of students for the funds needed to cover uniforms, school supplies, teacher salaries, and food each day. As of September 8th, we are still in need of 40 sponsors. If you know a business that would like to sponsor a classroom, they can do so for \$3,000 for the year. All of our donations are tax deductible. Contact Linda for info. God is faithful to provide the funds

needed.

In addition to the progress we see in the school, there will be some challenges this year. We are doing our best to keep the students as safe as possible given the violence and hardships caused by the gangs. One way we strive to do this is through our school bus transportation. The 30 passenger Agape bus transports students to and from the school from the city of Jacmel to Bremen. This year we will be faced with fuel shortages and parts for repairs. Please join us in prayer that God will provide the needed transportation supplies for our students. We also are looking for an additional 30 passenger bus to give us the ability to transport more students.

Please pray for the students, teachers and staff during this school year. The start date for the school has been pushed back until the roads are safe.



Agape Malnutrition Clinic Expansion

There are not enough words to describe the value of this life saving clinic. With over 300 charts and 75 active patients, it is obvious that the needs are great. As the conditions deteriorate in Haiti, these cases are expected to increase. The mission is in the process of purchasing more nutrition

One of biggest areas of need is basic healthcare in the community. It is time to look at ways to offer simple treatments for common illnesses.

supplement. At the October Clinic, all of the current patients were seen plus 50 unscheduled people came to ask for food for their families. It was heartbreaking to see these families hungry. We dispensed our bulk supplies of rice, beans and oil to these unscheduled families. We expect even more families at the next clinic and are trying to buy more supplies.

Please pray for funds, safety and success in getting these needed supplies flown to Bremen. Pray also for the safety of those transporting and guarding the supplies on the compound. We will have extra security on the compound for crowd control and safety during the November clinic.

This clinic is something that God spoke over us on our March trip. During our time in the clinic, He said,

**"Keep this clinic in operation".
We will obey.**

Medical Clinic Plans

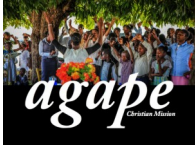
While the violent conditions are what our eyes see in Haiti, God has a vision that looks to future needs and more peaceful times in Haiti.

Magdala has been reporting some common illnesses in the malnourished children. These are conditions of respiratory infections, allergy symptoms, vomiting, diarrhea and fevers. All of these could be treated with over the counter medications preventing more serious conditions if

left untreated. We have discussed this need for a supply of medications and the ability to see and treat these patients outside of the malnutrition clinic. The next step for the mission is to consider building a small 2 exam room clinic with a pharmacy dispensing window for patients. The plans and cost for the building are in research. An estimated cost is \$30,000 with the inflation and limited materials currently. As we move forward with these plans, please pray that we can get clear

direction from God on the plans He wants and the services we would provide to the community of Bremen.

Healthcare practices with attention to disease prevention will be a top priority. The water purification system is a priority as this alone would help lessen skin and water borne diseases. Drashmen, our resident RN is preparing to teach good healthcare practices to the community. She will also teach this to the students in our Agape school.



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Bringing Hope to Haiti

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Agape Christian Mission Prayer Requests

Thank you for your prayers. There is power in each one.

1. *Pray for Haiti to receive help in the restoration of peace.*
2. *Pray for restoration of the supply chain to offer relief from the food, water and fuel shortage.*
3. *Pray for the schools of Haiti to reopen as soon as the conditions are safer.*
4. *Pray for the churches in Haiti to remain strong and engage in outreach to those at that are lost.*
5. *Pray for the Pastors to stay firm in the Bible and not be swayed by the lies of the enemy.*
6. *Pray for the food and clean water to be released to the general population to address the starvation now being experienced.*
7. *Pray for the Board of Agape Christian Mission to continue to guide the mission in the will of God.*

Director's Corner

What an honor and privilege to see the mission and the people we serve turn to the Lord when times get really tough. He is our only hope and all we need in times of trouble.

Many lessons can be learned from observing the actions and thought processes practiced by our Haitian leadership staff and congregation members. I have observed and admired the Haitian resilience in years past. They go about their day trusting that the Lord will protect them and supply their needs. They rarely look beyond the day they are living.

The current conditions go way beyond those experienced in the past. The gangs invade areas taking anything they want and destroying everything else. They also have no regard for life and take pleasure in shooting those in their way. They have blocked all commerce for those who have fruit and vegetables to sell. No fuel is getting to the stations and now clean water is being blocked from entering Port au Prince resulting in outbreaks of Cholera. Schools are being targeted in an effort to

keep the school year from starting. Schools with food stored for lunches are being looted. Mission bases have been looted including the UN food storage units. There are not enough police or weapons to combat the well armed gangs.

Even so, our brave leadership staff and the congregation members have faith that God is in control and He will guide them. If the day is too dangerous to be outside of the homes, they remain inside. They may need food and water but will patiently wait until the danger lessens and then try to find the things they need. They know that our compound is a safe haven with food and water. The congregation will walk to the compound for God's provision and comforting peace. They worship for hours and offer praise and thanksgiving to God for His love and hope. They pray constantly and respond to God's leading. This is a true walk with the Lord.

I often think about the people in the United States facing the same situation as these Haitian families. How would we respond? Would we have the faith and trust seen in our Haitian families? Would we still praise

and thank the Lord for His faithfulness?

I pray that we never have to face this type of humanitarian crisis. I also have learned to be mindful of how quickly we could find ourselves with no fuel, no electricity, no food on the store shelves and no healthcare services. The situation may not have gangs causing the crisis but a targeted terrorist attack could quickly cause a cascade of events that would put us in a crisis situation.

I would challenge each of us to take note of the strength of our faith and relationship with Jesus. Remember how our Haitian families respond. They have lived in this type of environment for so many generations. Their trust and faith have grown through each trial as Jesus has given them hope upon hope. Time after time Jesus is there and they know it. Their relationship with Jesus is strong and they hear His voice. He is all they have and for them He is enough.

I thank God for allowing me to see Him working in these Haitian families. May He keep them strong in His hope.

