



Eglise Methodiste d' Haiti January 2025

The State of the Nation of Haiti

The people of Haiti close out 2024 and look forward to 2025 with mixed feelings. The tragedies of the past several years continue and, in some cases, increase. Although the MSSS peace keeping force is slowly growing and slowly making progress curtailing the gangs, the violence and devastation continue.

Travel is still severely curtailed, making it dangerous to travel anywhere in the country. The United States has virtually eliminated all air traffic in Haiti by banning US based airlines from flying in or out of Haiti. The airport at Port au Prince is closed to all civilian traffic. Sunrise Airways has limited flights from Cap Hatien and a few Caribbean countries. The land border with the Dominican is closed to all traffic. Land travel to Cap Hatien is very dangerous especially for foreigners.

Displacement of the population of Port au Prince now exceeds the displacement of the 2010 earthquake to over 800,000 citizens. In-country transportation, particularly food is severely limited. Food and water are still available but in short supply. Prices have tripled and, in some cases, quadrupled further exacerbating all the incumbent problems. The UN refers to the food shortage as food insecurity but in reality, it is severe malnutrition and in many cases, it is starvation. I can observe the effects of malnutrition in myself and in the lives of my Haitian friends and colleagues.

The situation in Haiti has grown beyond a simple crisis and has become a severe humanitarian disaster. I cannot understate the humanitarian needs of the people of Haiti and yet aid and assistance is minimal.

Pray for the people and the situation in Haiti. Financially contribute all that you can. The solution is well beyond what the country of Haiti can do for itself.

Life Continues

By the Grace of God, life within Eglise Methodiste d' Haiti continues. Seven churches and nine schools have had to close due to gang violence. The people persevere. The New College Bird Church has been occupied by gangs, so the congregation is now meeting at the building next to the Bishop's house at Paco. The Circuit is able to feed the congregation every Sunday after services. Last Sunday we distributed gift boxes to the children at Paco and Jeremie. The gifts were appreciated by all.

We are planning for evening services ending at midnight with a celebration of Haitian Independence and a robust meal of Soup Jamou (pumpkin stew).



The New College Bird School has relocated to the Freres campus with half day classes. Annual Conference is scheduled for late January in Port au Prince. It is unclear how to safely bring all the delegates to a central location for the Conference but the Church will remain triumphant.

Multinational Peacekeeping Force



The success of the Multinational Security Support System remains the same. There is slow and steady progress. Additional troops have arrived from San Salvadore bringing with them three attack helicopters.

As the multinational peacekeeping force is making progress, the gang activity is shifting. As some of the neighborhoods are calming down, the gangs are moving out of the city into the rural areas.

Manse at La Gonave

Work on the manse steadily progresses. The walls are finished and the plan is to put on the roof next week. The water well and solar pump have been a godsend. Not only for the construction, but they have been able to sell water to contribute to the construction costs. The Circuit sees it as an investment in the future which will provide a regular income and water for vegetable gardens after the manse is occupied.

The final cost to complete the manse will far exceed the ability of the local congregation(s) to supply. Please prayerfully consider the development of the long-term growth of Eglise Methodiste d' Haiti by making a generous contribution to the La Gonave Manse Building Fund. Contributions should be made to the La Gonave Circuit. This is a dream, particularly for Gelin, that is coming true for the La Gonave Circuit after nearly 50 years of hoping and planning. Praise be to God for your help.

EMH Guesthouse

The Guesthouse has a need for new batteries for the inverter. We have been without workable batteries for almost a year. The effect of not having batteries is that we can only have power when the generator is running. This is not only inconvenient but in the long run more expensive. If we had workable batteries, we could charge the batteries during the week when the generator at College Freres is running and then have power in the evening (5PM until 10PM) and on the weekends.

We have 3 banks of 8 batteries each. A minimum 8 batteries will get us by with a few hours of power for lights in the evening and bare minimum power on the weekends for such things as security lights, phone service, internet and the ability to pump water from the well to the rooftop tanks. The cost for each battery is about \$200, which means a minimum of \$1500 to \$2000 is required.

Please consider making life in difficult times a little more bearable.

David Draeger

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