

Haiti Story Sainrillia 2011-02

In a previous story, I mentioned a pastor who died from a fall on a steep mountain trail, leaving behind his widow with their 7 children. When the accident happened, Sainrillia could no longer care for seven children, so she made arrangements with Pastor Marcel to take the three youngest to an orphanage called Destiny Village. Upon arrival at the orphanage, they could only take two, and even at that, normally they would not be able to take the youngest. An exception was made for the youngest, Markendy called Mark, and he was gathered up into the arms of a loving surrogate mom at Destiny Village while tears were shared all around. Marimene, his sister, was also brought into the flock at the orphanage, but they could not take a third child at that time. Pierre, the oldest of the three, called Johnny, stayed with Marcel and still to this day is in his charge.

Sainrillia still needed to care for her other 4 children as well as herself, and, in time, moved from the Bataille area to an area near the market in Fond Baptist. This move allowed her to sell her wares and not have to travel as far in rugged conditions.

After hearing the story of Sainrillia and her family, a family here in the states had been praying about helping Sainrillia and initially sent a blessing of funds for her. Travels this past February to visit Marcel brought some unexpected surprises and divine appointments. While staying with Marcel, I was blessed to meet another American couple who were staying with him for 3 weeks. Previously, they worked at Destiny Village where the two youngest children had been dropped off a few years ago. I will call them Jim and Judy (names changed). Judy was the one who was there at the orphanage sharing tears with Sainrillia as she said goodbye to her two precious little ones. From there, the children bonded with Judy and a relationship began. Johnny, of course, was with Marcel, so not too far from his brother and sister and still had opportunity to see them.

A new chapter was beginning in each of their lives. This past year, Jim and Judy were called to move on, so they came back to spend time with the orphanage children for some closure. Jim and Judy made arrangements to have Mark come stay with them at Marcel's for a couple of nights during the time I was there. This also provided another opportunity for Johnny to spend some brother time.

During all this, Marcel sent word up the mountain, kinda like the grape vine, to have someone locate Sainrillia and let her know he had something for her. Remember the family that wanted to help Sainrillia and her children, and that they had sent a gift along? Well it seems the Lord had in mind far more than just a "get together" to pass off a gift.

For Sainrillia to make this trip was a feat in itself. Where she lives there is no power or running water, no taxi's or what are called "tap taps". Even if it could have been arranged for a motorcycle tap tap, it would have cost too much. So a journey to the city of St Marc was far more than a ride to see a friend.

Sainrillia started early in the morning, well before sunrise, walking the mountain trails. She passed areas affected by landslides caused by hurricanes and deforestation as she traversed steep narrow trails. These steep narrow trails wind down in elevation about 3500' to National one (a main highway running mostly north and south in Haiti) which allows access to catching a ride with an affordable tap tap. From here Sainrillia headed north for close to an hour by vehicle to reach her destination. Oh, did I mention it took Her more than a day to make this trek!

Once Sainrillia arrived, everyone, including the surrogate parents, was together and I was able to

bless Sainrillia with the gift from the couple in the US.

Being blessed with a gift of land, Sainrillia and her children were then presented with several questions. Now there were more questions than answers. Would Sainrillia want her family all back together in one location? Where did she want to live? Did she have room to raise animals, cows, goats, pigs or chickens? These and many other questions were pondered. The area near the Fond Baptist Market is called Kalouis and Sainrillia wanted to live there. For it to be possible to have the family all together required a larger home and, at the time, Mark, Marimene and Johnny had the opportunity for an education, which was not possible up the mountain at Kalouis. The property she was blessed with could accommodate a house and raising all types of animals. So we closed asking Sainrillia how we could pray for her. She said, although the family be apart that they still remain together, or bonded together even though apart, that the children would understand, and they would behave. That's it, nothing for herself!

Sainrillia was sent off the next day with a suitcase full of goodies donated by folks in the USA. She used the donated funds to help with growing her market presence at Kalouis, which will help meet their needs. Can't imagine carrying all that back up the mountain, but there was no hesitation in her steps. Then we took the opportunity to discuss the possibility of a home being built.... lets see just where the Lord leads in this next chapter.

All praise be to God.