



God's Kingdom in Haiti October 2008

Dear Partners,

Greetings in the strong name of Jesus Christ! It is a necessity to trust in His strong name during these difficult days. But oh how blessed to know that He leads His kingdom forward as He reclaims what Satan has possessed for so long.

Tuesday, the 14th, we traveled again to Gonaives to see what progress has been made in the hurricane relief effort. We were surprised to see that mud still "ruled," and we still had to drive through water and mud to get anywhere. We were surprised to see houses still under water. Some of the pictures that we have sent to you could be sent again today ... very little has changed although work continues to dig out.

This is what one person said in an article:

Following a visit to the storm-ravaged northern city of Gonaives, U.N. Emergency Relief Coordinator John Holmes said more needed to be done immediately to improve conditions while promoting sustainable measures to address Haiti's long-term problems.

"From what I heard before and from what I've seen just now, this is a major catastrophe, one of Haiti's biggest catastrophes probably," Holmes told reporters during a news conference in Gonaives. (From a Reuters report) Another person said: "The streets are full of mud, the houses are still destroyed. People are living on their roofs. If you went there you would say, oh my ..., the cyclone was yesterday - not a month or five weeks ago."

And that is exactly our reactions. This time when we met the pastors there was no program, no agenda except to fellowship with them, hear their stories, and encourage them. Here are a few of their stories (this makes the newsletter a little long, but I think you will see why!)

Pastor Lima told how he was in his house, and the water came up to the second story. The water somehow took him under, and a piece of metal pierced his leg. His elderly mother and father were in the house as well, and they watched him go. They thought he was gone. But he prayed, and suddenly a force turned him around in the water and flipped him out to safety.

One pastor was in Port-au-Prince, and his pregnant wife was in Gonaives. She was ready to deliver her baby, when the rain began. She went out into the street to try to get to the hospital. She prayed, and suddenly up the street came ... you guessed it ... an ambulance, which took her to the hospital. She had a baby girl!

From: Pastor Isaac Pady

A little story about Hurricane Hannah and Ike in my house especially

This was a difficult time for my family. I was obliged to call some friends in USA to charge my phone because of the rain. My wife and I tried to put something upstairs to avoid water because we thought the hurricane would be smaller than 2004.

Unfortunately, the water came in the house even on the top that we were obliged to go up. We were wet by the rain and our life was very much in danger.

We had four more families (about 18 people) in our house on the top.

My child Sandy prayed like this: Lord, I know that you had a covenant with us. You said to Noah: I won't destroy the world or us by water again, but it seems that you forget your word, Lord.

After that, there was a big truck coming toward us, and we became more and more fragile in danger ... then, I made a prayer like that about the big truck: Lord I know that you always have power to direct nature. See it comes to destroy us; and I said before everyone, the truck stops the water because the Lord is God and He has the power to order nature. So the big truck stopped and everybody was surprised and one of the family members said: Let's confess before God and thank him. [This must have been a truck trailer.]

But the water continued to go up and broke my gate. Then I asked all 25 people on the top of my house to come for prayer.

In fact, we didn't have any food, any water to drink especially to give my children who were crying.

The worst day for us was Wednesday, September 3, in the morning because I had absolutely nothing. However the glory of God would shine for my family and the people who were on my roof even those who were in the street. Guess what? What happened exactly? There was a lot of mud and branches before my house, and I tried to see in it. I took a stick to dig through the mud. When I looked, I saw a packet of cookies. It was a good packet. So I took it and shared it with my children. Then, I continued to look and I found a lot of cookies ... thousands and thousands of cookies. Wow! What a miracle and almost everyone who lives in the street found some cookies. After that, I saw a lot of juices too: coke, Fiesta, Tampico, Sekola, etc.

After this, I said to everyone: let's praise God Who never abandons us. And everyone did that.

Finally, we know that even though it was a natural thing ... the hurricane ... continue to pray for Gonaives and our children because we don't want to see this kind of thing again. I believe God has a plan for this country, for each of us. Because He can do everything, when He wants and how He wants.

We did not have time for other pastors' stories, but they all had something that God had done especially for each of them. Praise His holy name!

Although the pastors sang Count Your Blessings, many other people seem to have given up. We asked the pastors, "Do you really mean you can count your blessings during this time?" Yes, they can. But it is still a very discouraging time. These pastors are still struggling to get their homes cleaned, repaired, and necessities back in them! Their churches and schools are in the same condition. The schools and some of the churches in the South are the same.

We have a new website: www.haitiforchrist.us that Pastor Peter Tremblay from PA has graciously provided and is maintaining for us. There you will discover pictures and a video which will show you how the Northern area looks after 6 weeks. The video is very homemade, but it is graphic in portraying the devastation. Just follow the link and it will take you to godtube. It may take a little while to download ... but then again we are in Haiti ☺.