

VanDervort Report



Thank you...

We want to thank all of you who have prayed for us and supported us financially.

As we end our time living in Haiti, we will not be receiving our salary and benefits after the end of December.

At that time, we will no longer need your financial support, but still request your prayer support.

Thank you, again, for being part of the team and allowing God to use you to bless the people of Haiti.

Men anpil chay pa lou.
-Haitian proverb

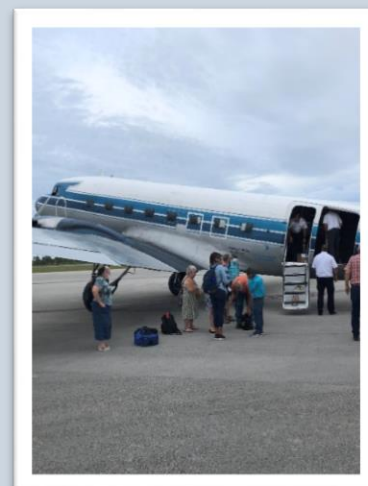
Haiti Happenings

Hang on, friends. There's a lot going on.

Once again, we are back in Pennsylvania. We left Haiti on November 4th and arrived in Ft. Pierce, FL around 5:30 PM. Our original plans were to leave Pierre Payen at 5:00 AM that day and wait at the airport in Port-au-Prince for our flight at noon. Due to circumstances in Haiti, we were advised to leave Pierre Payen earlier than planned. On Tuesday, November 2nd – two days ahead of schedule – we left for Port-au-Prince at 6:00 AM in the back of an ambulance. We spent two nights at Kainos, a B&B, near the airport. Our cat, Touille (short for Ratatouille), made the trip with us.

We had a rental van waiting for us in FL and were able to load everything at the airport. Missionary Flights International (MFI) had a place for us to stay for the night, allowing for some much-needed sleep, before we started north at 6:00 AM. The next day, we drove 16 hours straight and arrived in Hanover, PA around 10:00 PM. Dawn was sick with vomiting and dry heaves from Georgia to PA. It was a long day! To top it off, a deer ran into the rental car just 15 miles from home. Thankfully, we'd opted for the extra insurance on the rental car.

We stayed in our house for a couple nights and spent the days moving the rest of our belongings into storage and cleaning the house. We had sold our house during our last trip to the States, and closing was scheduled for November 9th. The closing went well and God has already provided a place for us to live; we will be moving in on December 11th. At the moment, we are staying in Harrisburg, at our friend's home while they are away. They agreed to take care of Touille until we are settled.



The Current Climate in Haiti

Haiti remains unsettled and in a state of constant turmoil. Armed gangs rule the country, especially in Port-au-Prince. A severe fuel shortage has all but brought the country to a standstill. There is fuel in the country, but the gangs will not allow it to be distributed, and they control the roads. Many hospitals and businesses have closed due to the fuel shortage. They have no fuel to run their generators, no electricity and for many, no water. The roads are quiet and even if you have fuel, the roads are unsafe. Kidnappings are common. A group of 16 Americans and one Canadian was kidnapped four weeks ago and still have not been released. The gang responsible is demanding one million dollars ransom for each person. Five children are part of this group, ages six months to 15 years. Please pray for their physical and mental well-being as well as their release. Many Haitians have been kidnapped as well and need prayer.

We will not be returning to Haiti to live. We had planned to retire at this time, but God has other plans for us. Project Help Haiti is in a period of transition and I (Mike) will remain as Director for at least another six months. We will be relying on two of our pastors to act as Liaison and Assistant Liaison. Pastor Denis Droicin will serve as Liaison and Pastor Watson Joseph will be his assistant. They will need mentoring as they grow into their leadership positions. Please pray for them as they deal with the situations that will arise.

Our churches in Haiti remain strong and vibrant. The hospital has been able to remain open and they continue to meet the needs of many people. Please remember our pastors and staff members who are still travelling to work and back. They are living in a dangerous situation.

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Mike and Dawn