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“This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.” (2 Timothy 2:1)

Every generation has had its hard times, some of those seasons worse than others. As communications have sped up, our knowledge of terrible events around the world is rapid and can be overwhelming. But that knowledge is dependent on someone making it known. As I have told people about Haiti, several have said they had no idea things were so bad, that they had not heard or read anything. They suggested that I share this information.

There were political problems and economic instability when COVID hit, but my Haitian friends were hopeful the situation would improve. Now they are saying conditions are the worst they have ever seen in their lifetimes, and for some that goes back more than eighty years and for many includes the Duvalier regimes.

—There are now 100-200 gangs in the Port-au-Prince area, many armed with military grade weapons. It is estimated that they control at least 80% of the city, mainly by violence. In July, the U.S. embassy property was in the middle of territory being claimed by three gangs. The embassy staff is now a skeleton crew, which protects workers but will slow down the processing of documents, especially for those trying to leave.

—The recent kidnapping of an American nurse was major news, and it was good to hear that she was released. (I do not know her.) But what about the television station owner kidnapped a couple of weeks earlier and still no news about him? There have been as many as 1000 people kidnapped in the first six months of this year, and those are just the ones reported. While the situation is terrible in the capital, other parts of the country have experienced this crime, usually in the cities. Victims may be tortured.

—Cell phones were a major reason for cancelling my trip in June. I was advised that someone could see me walking out of the airport, assume I had money, and call ahead for partners to lay in wait along the road and attack from ambush. If they did not stop me, they could identify Haitians coming to see me and attack them. It's sad to think that a cell phone can be a weapon.

—Inflation is reported to be at least 40%. Prices of basic items like cooking oil have increased by 50% in the past four months. Our project in April went over budget because the cost of some materials went up 50% in one month. At least 40% of Haitians need basics such as food. Schools are supposed to start soon, but that will not happen for many because of financial problems and violence threatening students and teachers.

—Local news can reflect a country's problems. There were break-ins of the Catholic church and the city hall in St. Raphaël in mid-June.

That's the hard news. Now for some good things that have been happening.

—God opened a way for me to handle obligations to my workers and send medications. Reliable medications (as in not fake) can be hard to find or extremely expensive. We have many people who depend on these medications and are grateful to get them at a reasonable cost. I can still send things via Missionary Flights International.

—My workers and I are in regular contact by cell phone using WhatsApp. They are trusting God to care for them.

—Faithful ministers continue to proclaim God's Word. Pastor Thelamour still works with his people in Logalite and Pichinné in his senior years. He is assisted by Frère Wisner, who is also a watchman for the clinic property. Killick and Nehemie Aristide, with Baptist World Mission, have a fruitful ministry on the southwest peninsula. Pray that those sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ will themselves be encouraged and have their needs met as they reach out to others.

In November, 2008, I heard a series of messages on Job. One of the lessons in the first message was that when God wants to try His servant—really try His servant—nothing is untouchable. Job would later say, *“But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold.”* (Job 23:10) God does not waste a second of our lives. He uses these present trials to increase our capacity for Himself, a reward we will enjoy with Him forever.

In our Lord's service,

Dr. Anne

“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God.” (Ephesians 2:8)
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