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“Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain: Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow.” (James 4:13-14a)

We make plans for the future, and there is nothing wrong with that. As has often been said, how do you know you’ve arrived if you don’t know where you’re going? But how often do we remember to check with God about those plans? One thing I have learned from Haitians is to say, “Si Bondye vle” (if God wills). That may be a common add-on for many of them, but it reminds me that everything passes through God’s control.

People on the southern peninsula of Haiti were jolted by an earthquake on January 24. This one was on the northern side of the peninsula; the one in August affected the central-southern part more. Here was another unanticipated natural disaster, and the region had not recovered from the previous one.

Personal tragedies continue. A pastor was kidnapped on his way to Sunday service at his church in early February, and has not been heard from since. Haitians have written a song asking the all-powerful God to free those who have been kidnapped and change the hearts of the kidnappers. The 6-year-old granddaughter of one of my workers was headed to school in Port-au-Prince when a car hit her. It sounds like her right foot was mangled. The driver promptly took her to a good hospital where she had two surgeries in three days. Those appear to have been successful, but Fayita will eventually need skin grafts.

Praise A rural church asked me to get them an accordion, an instrument that is not easy to find these days. I mentioned the need at a women’s get-together, and someone said to “ask Jean,” so I did. It turns out she has one, and will be happy to donate it. This Haitian church is already rejoicing over God’s provision. We completed the editing of the discipleship book translation in January. A friend gave me the name of a local Haitian student, and he was able to help with final questions. I submitted the work, but then the person doing the formatting discovered that some material was missing. This was the first time I had worked with another person on a shared Word document for editing, and I had some challenges. A college student at church solved those with a question and a brief explanation, and I was able to quickly make the changes and re-submit everything. It was a blessing to see God’s goodness in this learning experience, and how He brought people together for this project.

God continues to make it possible to provide for the needs of workers and patients in Haiti.

Projects We need to replace at least some of the large batteries for the solar system at the Ministry Residence. Please pray that my worker can find those.

Prayer Elections were originally supposed to happen in May, but are now promised to be held before the end of the year. Haiti needs political stability.

Kidnappings are a daily occurrence. Wicked people need God to change their hearts. Please pray that the Holy Spirit will convict them of sin and judgment and their need for faith in Jesus Christ.

Christians are standing firm in their faith. Please pray that God will meet their needs, and that they will be salt and light in their communities.

I would like to return to Haiti this year as God wills.

“Boast not thyself of to morrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth.” (Proverbs 27:1)

It has occurred to me more than once while driving that I don’t know what a single trip will bring, let alone a day. Our knowledge is so small, but our God is so great. Let us remember Him and go to Him with our plans, seeking His guidance and will.

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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