

June 17, 2019 Livingston Sad news from Haiti

I remember being in Haiti in 2004 when there was violence, break-ins, stopping of buses and robbing the passengers, and the threat of a civil war. Missionaries in our area asked for wisdom for God's will, and we all believed He was directing as some returned to the US and others of us stayed. Conditions were hard, but it was possible to manage.

Three of my workers let me know on Saturday that I should not return to Haiti, and two of them mentioned civil war. These people are living in different areas: inside Cap Haitien, northeast of Cap, and in St. Raphael (with grandchildren in Cap). The violence is greater in Cap Haitien, but no area seems to be immune. The worker in St. Raphael said that there have been buildings burned, that murders are common, and that coffins are being pulled out of family mausoleums. Today, the man living northeast of Cap was thinking of getting a motorcycle ride from the bus station in Cap, but had to leave because of the rocks and bottles that were being thrown. It was probably a good thing he did not go to St. Raphael, because there are gangs along that road, and they are lurking in the area just before the road goes up the mountain. If they do not get money, they cut the people's faces. This is much worse than fifteen years ago.

There have been political divisions since the early 90's, with much unhappiness over the ouster, and then return, of Jean-Bertrand Aristide as president depending on which group one asked. Those tensions surfaced in 2004 when he was again president. The crime rate went up, there was talk of civil war, and there were undoubtedly many who took advantage of the unrest for their personal gain.

The election in 2015 was contested, with complaints of fraud. The run-off was in 2016, with a winner declared in spite of very low voter turnout. The political situation has continued to be unsettled since President Moïse took office in 2017. There were calls for a major strike this February 7 with demands that the president step down, the visible start of what is going on now. Another strike was called for June 9, and there were reports of buildings burned, roads blocked with burning tires and scattered rocks, and sporadic gunfire. There have been problems with fuel since Venezuela no longer sends it. That has helped prices skyrocket. There are complaints of corruption and who is to blame, sadly not anything new. And wicked people are taking advantage of the unrest for their own gain.

*"Jesus ... said unto them, Suppose ye that these Galilaeans were sinners above all the Galilaeans, because they suffered such things? I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." (Luke 13:1,2)*

It can be easy to look at someone else's situation and think they deserve the troubles that have befallen them. Our Lord reminds us that we should focus on what we deserve from God and repent. And we can pray for those who suffer...and those who cause the suffering.

Please continue to pray for:

- The country of Haiti—for the violence to come to an end, for stability in the government and in the economy, for wicked people to repent;
- The Christians—that they would grow in their trust in the Lord, that they would be a shining light of witness to their neighbors, and that God would supply their needs;
- Wisdom—for me to use the present time wisely and to know God's will about a return date.

Thanks for all your encouragement and support. God has blessed me through you.

In our Lord's service,

*Dr. Anne*