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“Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you...” (1 Peter 4:12)

I have never heard anyone hope for trials to come their way. We don't like hard times, even though God uses those to develop our faith, grow us in holiness and make us like our Lord Jesus Christ. Later in his life, Paul wrote of the connection between loss and knowing Christ, of suffering and fellowship with Christ (Philippians 3:7-10). We want the result; we fear the process.

Many of you have been praying for Haiti, and especially for the Christians there. There were the trials of political instability and crime since early in 2019, and the pandemic in 2020. This year, President Jovenel Moïse was assassinated in July; in August there was a massive earthquake in the southwest of Haiti, followed a few days later by a tropical storm. The trials have become more heated since then due to rampant crime, including people being kidnapped or killed even in churches, something that never happened in the past. Since the beginning of October:

- A gang kidnapped a 79-year-old pastor on October 3, and only released him after a second ransom was paid. The same gang kidnapped the 17-member Christian Aid team and their driver, and perhaps other Haitians, on October 16. None of these people have been released as of this writing.
- Gangs control the roads out of Port-au-Prince as well as entrances to fuel storage areas. Hijacked fuel trucks and kidnapped drivers are not uncommon. As a result, most of the country has little fuel, causing closures of essential services such as hospitals. What little fuel is available in Cap Haitien can only be found on the street. Prices rose from \$20 US to \$40 US/gal. in the first week of November. Transportation is almost at a stand-still.
- Many church services have been cancelled. People are afraid to leave their houses for fear of getting shot. One worker said his family goes to sleep not knowing if they will be attacked and killed during the night.
- A gang trashed a major private hospital in the north to keep the member of another gang from getting treated. The hospital has been closed since November 1, leaving many people without needed medical care.
- Prices in the markets have been skyrocketing.

We could call any one of these problems—political chaos, natural disasters, crime that is out of control—a fiery trial. Haitians have been dealing with all of these, and watching their situation get worse. Haitian Christians are looking to God for deliverance for themselves and their country, and they are thankful for your prayers.

Praise It has been possible to take care of the workers' salaries, and to purchase and send medical supplies. A missionary and I are working through the translation of the discipleship book. His experience has been a great help in making translation choices. We have found the places that need Haitian input.

Prayer Please pray that Haitian Christians will be salt and light to the people around them, that they will grow in their faith, and that they will know God's peace in this stormy time of trials.

“Mine enemies would daily swallow me up: for they be many that fight against me, O thou most High. What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee.” (Psalm 56:2-3)

We all have fears, whether from losses, unexpected events or people. We need to turn in trust to God. He uses these trials to make us like fine gold, beautiful and valuable to Himself and to those around us.

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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