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16 November 2020

“As for God, his way is perfect: the word of the LORD is tried: he is a buckler to all those that trust in him.” (Psalm 18:30) “In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.” (Proverbs 3:6)

Most people would agree that this has been an unusually confusing year. COVID and natural disasters have disrupted lives around the world. I have heard people say they just wish things would “get back to normal,” but the “normal” of the past may never return. What remains constant in this changing world is God and His Word.

Thank you for praying with me as I have been seeking God’s will for returning to Haiti. I have been gathering information and getting counsel about this. It was good to meet with my field committee at the Baptist World Mission Annual Meeting in early October and discuss options. Last week, I met with a fellow missionary who made a trip to Wallondri in October, and then I talked with my worker Isaac. Today I met with my pastors and my mission representative via Zoom, and the conclusion was to go ahead and tentatively make a reservation to return to Haiti in January, but continue to monitor the situation.

The reason for the concern is the U.S. State Department’s August 6, 2020, Level 4 Do Not Travel Advisory due to, “crime, civil unrest, kidnapping and COVID-19.” Port-au-Prince, the capital, is mentioned in the statements. There would be more trouble in larger cities, but caution is still necessary in rural areas. The missionary and my workers report that things are quiet in Wallondri and St. Raphael, but then I heard of an armed robbery on the road between Pignon and St. Raphael a day later. Crime is everywhere in this fallen world, but I want to be wise about returning to this country where it is so prevalent.

One thing that has changed in our area is that the road from St. Raphael through Pignon to Port-au-Prince is now paved. That was promised for years, and many of us thought we would be in heaven before it happened!

There have been opportunities to serve in the past few weeks. I presented the clinic ministry while visiting my sister’s church in Michigan. It was possible to send the clinic workers their salaries for the rest of this year. Thank you for making that possible. I had the privilege of speaking to fourth to sixth-grade students in chapel at a Christian school, and then answering the questions of the fifth-grade class afterward. At the end, one of the boys said, “You’re really cool...like my grandma!” Talk about a double compliment!

Praise I drove many miles since the beginning of October, and I am grateful for God’s protection.

Tropical Storm Eta took down a lot of trees in this area, including one in the backyard of the home where I stay. We are grateful that the tree landed where it could do the least damage.

There has been continued healing of the hip, and movements are now automatic.

Projects The preparation for the remaining major project is now done.

Prayer Please continue to pray for political stability and the control of crime in Haiti.

The reports of COVID cases in Haiti may not show the extent of the disease, since testing is not widely available. There is a stigma with the disease which makes people reluctant to say that they might have it. Instead, many people have “colds” or pneumonia.

God knows the way that I take (Job 23:10), and He will guide me down that path as I look to Him for guidance. My part is to trust Him for His direction, and then walk with Him, knowing His way is best.

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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