



## Happy New Year

*And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds - Hebrews 10:24*

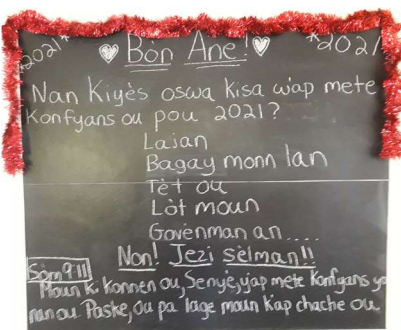


Early the morning on January 1st, our doorbell rang. Outside was a dear friend with a covered dish in his hands. It was a gift of soup joumou (pumpkin soup) from his mama who had spent all night making a huge pot for their family and friends. This was a humbling gesture as this family is of simple means and is living in a very meager Haitian home in the ravine behind our house. What a gift of love! It is common in Haiti to make soup joumou after returning from church at midnight on New Years Eve. This is the traditional soup to celebrate Haitian Independence Day (think of our Fourth of July) which is on January 1st. We can't tell you how blessed we were to receive such a precious gift and, boy, was it delicious! What a wonderful way to begin the new year! This family was thanking us for being a blessing to them by blessing us. This is the beauty of the church, encouraging and loving one another.

## Holiday Party at Esperre Kay!

*Those who know your name trust in you, for you, LORD, have never forsaken those who seek you - Psalm 9:10*

Our first Sunday together after we returned to Haiti was spent celebrating Christmas and New Years with a holiday party at our Bible Study. We praised the Lord together and discussed what we are putting our trust or faith in for 2021. Is it money, things of the world, ourselves, other people, the government...? No, we all decided we are putting our trust and faith in Jesus only (Psalm 9:10). We also began talking a bit about what it means to have Jesus as both our Lord and Savior. This was an interesting concept for our young adults. There were some good discussions. After our Bible study we had some yummy cookies and each was given a small gift. It was a very blessed reunion indeed.

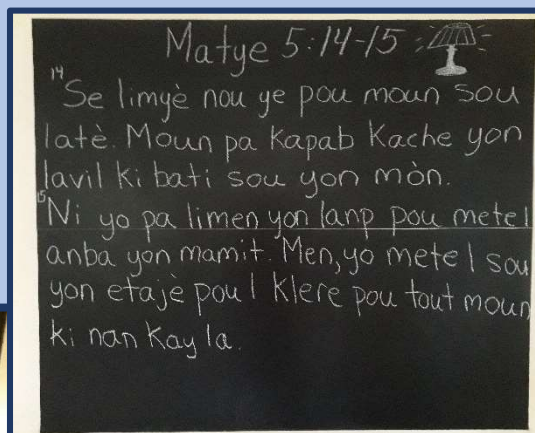


## Feeling Down and Out (by Deb)

*"Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, but few things are needed—or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her" - Luke 10:41 - 42*



In our last newsletter we wrote about surrendering all our plans to Jesus (Proverbs 16:3) and going out to preach the Gospel (Matthew 28: 19-20). This month I am going to share a personal story with you about how God used a circumstance in my life, recently, to bring those two scriptures together in a unique way. I was preparing to go out to Loving Hands Orphanage (LHO) to have a Bible study with the children and preparing to go to Haiti Teen Challenge (HTC) to share devotion, do some baking and teach a little English through the Bible with the girls when I got sick. This wasn't just a little sick, this was I can't move or do anything sick. Without going into details, I was flat out for about a week and a half. My sweet husband, David, had to take over and do the daily things I would normally do. Now, it has been months since we have been to the orphanage and over a year since I have been to Teen Challenge. I was so excited to go out once again and share the Gospel in Haiti. Can I tell you how frustrated I was in not being able to do either of these things? Another thing to factor in is the country is getting ready to face a month of political unrest so I am not sure when this chance will come again. I had to remember Proverbs 16:3 and trust God for His good timing in establishing my plans. As always, this time of being down caused me to quiet myself and sit at the feet of Jesus like Mary did in the scripture above. He showed me how this is never wasted time. I could still worship daily, read the Bible and pray, maybe even listen which is so important. I have the lesson all set for the orphanage and the devotion ready for the HTC girls. I trust I will get to share with both groups one day if it's God's will and in His perfect timing. In the meantime, I had to remember how God can use us right where we are to share the Gospel. I had the opportunity this past month to play keyboard and sing praises daily in Creole knowing there are people listening outside. I went outside in front of our gate to clean up the trash a couple times. I greeted neighbors in Jesus name, struck up conversations, prayed for a woman who needs a job to care for her family. The other day I spoke with a gentleman for over an hour about Jesus and others stopped to listen. We have witnessed to this man before and don't know if/when he will accept Christ, but he won't be able to say he did not hear the Good News. So, don't get frustrated like I did when things don't go your way or if you are down. Continue to worship, read the Bible and pray or maybe just sit quietly at the feet of Jesus and listen. It's never wasted time. God will continue to lead you and use you right where you are until He says go!



## Teachable Moments and God's Provision

*Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. "Do you understand what you are reading?" Philip asked. "How can I," he said, "unless someone explains it to me?" So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him - Acts 8:30 - 31*

One of the hardest decisions we ever have to make as directors of the Espere Kay Program is to let a young adult go and place them solely in God's hands before they have finished the program. This past month, we had to make this decision regarding Peterson. We had to explain this to the rest of our young adults at our last Bible Study. While praying about how to approach this, during morning devotion, God pointed out Micah 6:8 which states what pleases God is to, "to do justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." The devotion went on to say how, as Christians, we can sometimes forget God is a God of justice. He doesn't want us to just go on sinning and expect mercy. We are held accountable for our actions. It also went on to say how we sometimes can be so interested in justice that we seek revenge. This does not please God either. It was amazing to see how God was providing the words needed to explain to the young adults about Peterson. We told them we have forgiven Peter but he must be held accountable for his actions. We also asked them, as we do you, to please keep Peter in your prayers as he moves on. Please pray for his heart to be fully surrendered to God and His ways. Pray he would be able to find a job and make a way for himself. Pray for God's protection and that He would lead Peter in the plan He has for his life.

At our last Bible Study Dave also led the young adults in a discussion about Matthew 5:14-16 regarding Christians being the light of the world. He asked them what they thought this scripture meant and then proceeded to share a personal testimony about walking in integrity. There was good discussion and everyone learned how important it is our actions reflect our faith as Christ's ambassadors here on earth. God's provision in this instance is the light that was shining behind Dave while he was teaching and leading this discussion. This is the lamp we use to show us when we have electricity from the government. It is not usually lit during this time of day yet it was on during the entire Bible Study as a shining example. We even took a moment to cover it and everyone saw what it would look like to cover our faith and not share it.

This is one of the amazing things we love about doing God's work here. We are fortunate to see God's hand in what we do all the time. As we continue to pray, worship and stay in the Word, He continues to faithfully provide for us as we lead in discipleship. To God be the glory!

## Prayer Requests

- We are rejoicing in God's answer to prayer! All our young adults are currently fully sponsored for 2021! We are still accepting donations towards housing which is not covered by sponsorship.
- Pray for the young man we spoke with for over an hour about Jesus. Pray his heart will soften and he will take the step of faith in accepting Christ as Lord and Savior.
- Myrèse and Jhonn are both in their senior year of university! Pray for their success.
- Rejoicing in Deb's recovery and prayers for God's continued protection over our health.
- Keep Haiti in your prayers as violent protests are expected this month by opposition leaders insisting the president's term of office is up. Pray for peaceful demonstrations and resolutions.
- Please keep us in prayer for God's wisdom in leading our young adults into a deeper relationship with Jesus and in interpreting scripture for themselves. Pray we would be able to go out and share the Gospel wherever the Lord provides.
- Pray for productive meetings with each of the young adults as we hold our quarterly meetings.
- Ask the Lord for God's protection over all our young adults' health, protection as they go to school and for success this year.

## Prayer Requests, cont.

- As Haiti will begin to move in it's plan to close all orphanages by 2030, please pray for us as we research what others are doing in their ministries. Pray for the Lord's leading as to how we can use what He is placed in our hands to support our children and their community as well as advancing the Gospel in the area of our orphanage.

**God bless, Deb and Dave**