

MINISTRY NEWS



FROM THE FOUNDER

I pray you are enjoying the new year. Our ministry team is excited for what 2021 might bring, and, Lord-willing, we will accomplish significant projects in Haiti in the months to come.

The last two years have proven to be more challenging regarding travel from the United States to Haiti, as rioting in the capital over politics and Covid-19 restrictions has raised concerns for some. I want to provide you with some perspective about the current events in Haiti from our ministry's standpoint. I am in communication with Pastor Poyis almost daily, which we are both grateful for.

The last month's events have spurred some headlines here in the US. However, a few events have helped the unrest and rioting to calm down. First, President Biden has given notice of his support of President Jovenel Moïse remaining in office through February 2022. Additionally,



continued



the opposition's leader has been arrested. In Haiti, they celebrate "Carnival", which we know as Mardi Gras. All of these events have settled some of the unrest.

Our ministry compound in Onaville is about an hour's drive outside of Port-au-Prince, Haiti's capital. This is similar to living outside of Los Angeles. During the summer of 2020, we saw rioting in Los Angeles, but my home is approximately an hour's drive away from where the riots occurred. Covid-19 aside, it would still be considered safe to travel in and out of Los Angeles International Airport to where I live, to put things in some perspective.

In Onaville, the Haitians have continued their normal daily lives out of necessity. They seem to live without any concern over the political unrest an hour or more away. They also seem unphased by Covid-19. It may be that the hot and humid climate has nulled the spread of the virus. The Haitians live with the presence of many diseases that have been eliminated by most other nations, so for the Haitians, Covid is just another issue that they live with. We're grateful this is the case, as it has allowed our ministry to continue.

Those of you who have traveled with us before are aware of the precautions we take to provide the best care possible when traveling in and out of Port-au-Prince. A small group traveled with me in January to Haiti, both staff and volunteers. We traveled in and out of Haiti without any issues.

Although the US Embassy currently has set a high-level travel warning, it appears that this is due to events that are happening in the capital region (along with the ongoing presence of Covid-19). Unfortunately, it is somewhat normal for the travel warning to be at a higher level, since Haiti is a third-world country. We are also part of Hero, which keeps us informed of travel alerts.



Thank you for continuing to pray for the people of Haiti. Please pray, too, for their country's leadership.

"I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness." –1 Timothy 2:1-2

Although Haiti's political climate was especially tense at the turn of the year, the unrest seems to have settled and people have returned to their day-to-day activities. Poyis and the ministry team continue to serve the community well. During our visit last month, Wiley and I were encouraged to spend time with some of the pastors we have worked with over the last several years. Please continue to pray for this group of men as they faithfully proclaim the gospel—some, in very violent cities.



The children in our homes continue to thrive, and we have been able to rescue several more already this year. Over 120 children now call Regency or Mercy their home. This act of love and service continues to shock the surrounding communities, and we pray it will open more hearts to Jesus.

I hope you'll enjoy reading Steevenson's testimony below and continue praying for the children in our homes. Thank you for being a faithful friend.

In His Grip,
Greg Barshaw

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TESTIMONY SPOTLIGHT RENE STEEVENSON

Steevenson was brought to the Regency Children's Home by the Brigade for the Protection of Minors (BPM) in September, 2018. He had run away from his owner to escape the abuse he had been suffering and was rescued off the streets.

While Steevenson enjoyed being off the streets, he was unruly and extremely disobedient. In fact, he was setting such a terrible example for the other children that one day Poyis had to show Steevenson extreme discipline. Poyis placed Steevenson in the car and drove him away from the Home, explaining that since Steevenson couldn't behave, he would be better to live on the streets again.

It was then that Steevenson realized how much he needed Poyis and everyone at the home. Over time, he came to know Jesus personally and accepted Him as Savior.

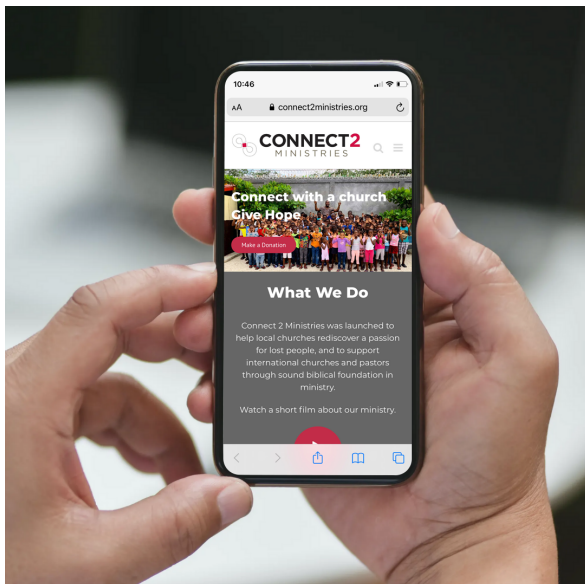


We have around thirty children without sponsors, who are in need of a pen pal! If you are interested, please click the button below or email Lizzie to volunteer.

If you have any questions, you can email Lizzie at lfriginal@connect2ministries.org.

We hope you will enjoy this fun way to communicate with your sponsored child and that your hearts will be mutually encouraged through the Pen Pal Project.

[Sponsor a Child](#)



JOIN US!

Is your church looking for a missions outreach opportunity? The heart of Connect 2 Ministries is to connect the local church in the U.S. with the local church in Haiti. We have a few Haitian pastors ready to plant churches, and we would be overjoyed to have a U.S. church sponsor them.

Ready to join us? Connect with one of our staff members today.

[Email Our Staff](#)

EASY WAYS TO SUPPORT FROM HOME

Using AmazonSmile and ShopRaise is a simple way for you to support us every time you shop, at no cost to you. You shop. Retailers give. Simply select AmazonSmile or ShopRaise via your web browser or shopping app!

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NEW ON THE BLOG

BUILDING HOPE FOR A BIGGER FUTURE, PART 1

Last September, I led a trip with a small group of American volunteers to our ministry compound in Haiti. [Read more](#)