

Bringing Light to Northern Haiti



Haitian Christian Ministries

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Preaching and teaching
the Word of God

Planting Churches

Meeting the Physical
Needs of the People

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#PrayforHaiti



If you have heard the news from Haiti over the last several weeks, you know of the unrest and turmoil gripping the country. For those not aware, Haiti is struggling more than usual. Fuel is nearly non-existent. Because of the lack of fuel, food is even more scarce than normal as transportation comes to a halt. People who make a living by driving people have no income. Those that sell their goods at market have no way

to get there and no customers even if they could get there. With resources even more limited than usual, the Haitian people who struggle regularly to find their next meal are even more desperate now. Violence, protests, and roadblocks are common in the larger cities with many Haitians growing increasingly frustrated.

Yet, even in what appears to be a situation that some would label hopeless, we know there is Hope as God is always in control. We hear that even in the struggle there is still praise rising to our God. And we hope you will join us in continuing to lift Haiti and our Haitian brothers and sisters up in prayer. While the situation at times looks bleak, we know the power of prayer.

How did Haiti reach this point of so much turmoil? One of the largest factors that has impacted Haiti in recent years is inflation. In 2018 food costs in Haiti increased 50.4%, transportation increased 13.7%, housing increased 11.1% and utilities increased 11.1%. This makes the weighted average 13.72% but notice the drastic increase in the cost of food. It was impacted far more than other commodities and services.

Since 2015, inflation has averaged over 12% per year with this year expected at or above that level. This means that an item that cost \$1 on January 1, 2015, would cost \$1.80 by the end of 2019. But this doesn't tell the true story for Haiti, the true story is in the cost of food. We don't have exact numbers for previous years for food cost increase, but if we assume that food increased in

prior years as it did in 2018, a food item that cost \$1 on January 1, 2015 would cost substantially more than \$1.80 by the end of 2019.

For a people that make less than \$30 a month, this means the little amount they make buys even less than it did just a short time ago. Even though Haiti has its own currency, the US dollar is still the baseline for buying gas and goods. For the children we sponsor, \$30 a month goes to food, medicine, and paying our teacher's salaries. As a ministry, we have not been able to keep pace with inflation in raising our teacher salaries. Our teachers are just as impacted by inflation as every other Haitian and feel the burden of providing for their families. Their concerns are real, their pain is real, and weight of all of this has fallen on Pastor Bob.

While we are not formally raising our sponsorship fee per month, we are asking you to pray about giving above the traditional \$30 for monthly support for child sponsorship. 94% of the dollars we take in are passed along to Haiti. Every extra dollar a month can make a great impact in the communities of Pillatre and Lory. We believe Haiti can and will recover from this very difficult time, and we would like to help our Haitian brothers and sisters. If after prayer you are willing to give above and beyond the \$30, please reach out to us via haitianhcm@gmail.com.

Sponsor Gifts

Many of you are aware of the option to send gifts to sponsor children in Haiti. We have traditionally offered this to allow you to get birthday, Christmas, and other special gifts to the children. We have recently been made aware of increased issues with these gifts getting through customs in Haiti. Because of these issues, we are asking everyone to suspend sending gifts via the field address. We are working to finalize a plan that would provide the opportunity to buy a goat for the family of the sponsor children. This gift would be a huge blessing to the family. The milk could be used by the family or sold. This idea was first brought to us by Pastor Bob and we believe this type of gift can provide a lasting change to a family.

We are working through the details with Pastor Bob and hope to share more in the next month or two. Given some of the other issues highlighted above, we want to move forward with this when it is not a large additional burden on our leaders in Haiti.



"Dear children, let's not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions. Our actions will show that we belong to the truth, so we will be confident when we stand before God." 1 John 3:18&19 NLT