

# Haiti Happenings

Shaina Thiner

*“Above all, love each other deeply,  
because love covers a multitude of sins.”*

1 Peter 4:8

## Dear Family,

In my last letter I wrote about the Spirit bringing a passage of Scripture to life for me in a fresh way, and this month it happened again. I was meandering through the book of Job in my daily Bible readings and, to be honest, having a difficult time staying focused. I have always felt like the 42 chapters of Job could have easily been summed up in one chapter. Especially the portions including Job's complaints and his friends' insensitive rebukes...repeated over and over.

But as the book draws to a close and Job (FINALLY) receives God's response, the following verses jumped out at me. God tells Job's "friends" that his anger is burning against them, and they will only be made right before Him when they offer Him burnt sacrifices AND Job prays for them. It is only AFTER this that Job's fortunes are restored.

Now, I am not suggesting that God would not have blessed Job at all had he not prayed for his careless and erroneous friends. However, Scripture is very clear that harboring unforgiveness does create a rift in our relationship with God. What stood out most to me, though, in this passage, was the value God placed on Job's relationships with his companions. God was concerned about these men and their relationship with Him (hence the required sacrifices), but He was also (and possibly equally as) concerned with their relationships with each other.

This has been a recurring theme for me the past several years: the emphasis God places on our vertical relationships, and the way these relationships are to be the result, and even evidence, of our relationship with Him, and also to be a reflection of Who He is. The closer we are to Him, and to being like Him, the better our relationships with ALL those around us ought to be. That includes those who agree with us and those who don't. That includes those who treat us well and those who don't. That includes those who think and live like us and those who don't.

It can be easy to go on a missions trip with this mentality, or even to spend a significant amount of time on the mission field and live this out, and then in coming back to our passport country where we are comfortable to find we are again struggling in this area (I say "we" and "our", but I am speaking as much to myself as anyone). In other words, I found myself being more intentional when I was in a place where my very existence more deeply depended on God. Being back where it is "easier" to live out my faith, where being a follower of Christ doesn't quite make me stand out as much, my tendency is to grow lethargic in my relationships with others.

My prayer, for myself and for all of us, is that we would begin combatting this sluggishness...that our vertical relationships would begin to more accurately and vibrantly reflect Who our God is: Love, Truth, Joy, Goodness, Compassion, Diligence, Hope. Maybe then we will stand out more...maybe then others will be drawn to Him Who they are seeing in us.

Please continue to pray:

1. Protection over our people as they serve in Haiti during a time of great instability.
2. For open hearts and good relationships established as the ministry grows in the Dominican Republic.
3. For wisdom and clarity as decision are made for people in both ministry locations.
4. For the means to continue providing for all those under their care in Haiti and the DR.
5. For peace for Haiti and its people.



## EXPANSION UPDATE

After two years of waiting and praying and planning and hoping, God has paved the way for the ministry in the Dominican Republic to finally move forward! Wilckly received his official U.S. residency card and booked tickets to fly the D.R. almost immediately! He and Dee spent a week there together to establish their new rental property (which will serve as their residence and temporary church). Dee then returned to the U.S. (please keep her in your prayers as she is scheduled to have knee-replacement surgery next week) and Wilckly remained. He has been busy building relationships with area pastors and spreading the news about the new church (they already held services and had a wonderful turnout!) and ministry. As funds come in he will begin construction of buildings at the land we own (we only owe \$4000 more on it before it is officially ours!) which will include a church, school, toilets, and more!

Thank you so much for your prayers and support as we have waited on God's timing for this exciting expansion of the ministry! Though Haiti remains in turmoil we still have many people there and a thriving ministry...we are so thankful for the people God has prepared to step up in our physical absence...God is not leaving Haiti and neither are we!! Please keep praying for wisdom and strength for us (our entire team: in Haiti, the D.R. and the U.S.) as we make decisions and serve in both locations.

If you would like to make a contribution,  
check out our online giving option!!

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