

Haiti Happenings

Shaina Ascone

March 2022

“It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD... for the Lord will not cast off forever, but, though He cause grief, He will have compassion according to the abundance of His steadfast love... who has spoken and it came to pass, unless the Lord has commanded it?”

Lamentations 3:26,31-32,37

Please continue to pray:

- 1. Protection over our people as they serve in Haiti during a time of great instability.**
- 2. For peace and hope as Wilckly and Dee move forward in expanding the ministry across the island.**
- 3. For wisdom, clarity, health, energy, and peace for them and all under their leadership.**
- 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.**

Dear Family,

The last few updates I have been sharing my musings on and lessons God has been teaching me about the topic of waiting. There were several reasons this subject has been forefront in my mind and heart of late, but the primary cause was one so precious and joyous and deeply moving that I have been *waiting* (oh, the irony) for the right words and the right timing to let you all in on the story. It is a subject I haven't often shared because it felt so personal, but it is also one I know so many of you have been praying about for me for a long time.

Last year, right at a time when my heart felt like it was on a seesaw between being perfectly content where God had me in my singleness and feeling incredibly hurt and frustrated that so many others seemed to be getting what I have always wanted so badly, God chose *right then* to not only humble me, but show me so much grace. He brought someone into my life with whom I share values, worldview, ministry and community mindsets, goals, and so much more. I have been learning over the past year what I have always

known, but apparently didn't fully believe: God's gifts are always, ALWAYS, worth waiting for, no matter how long the wait. His perfect and wondrous timing in bringing Matthew and I into each others' lives has opened my eyes anew to just how gracious and compassionate and ultimately sovereign He is.

When Matthew asked me to marry him a few months ago my spoken "yes" felt like a confirmation of what my heart had already long been hoping for and desiring. Our hearts are so similar, and looking back over the past and where God has brought us we both truly believe God has been molding us to be exactly this compatible and complementary...we are so excited for what the future holds for us.

I will be continuing my work with Blessing Hearts Ministries, but after we are married in June I will be moving to Astoria, where Matthew [Thiner] and his five wonderful children live, and where he serves as senior pastor at Astoria Christian Church. I appreciate your prayers as I prepare to begin this new, exciting chapter of my life!



With Love in Christ,
Shaina Ascone

We miss you dearly, Grann...



Though I knew I was where I was supposed to be when I moved to Haiti and my heart was at peace, it was still very difficult for me to be so far away from my family, with whom I had always been very close. God showed me so much grace by bringing me a Haitian family, not to replace my physical family, but to increase and enlarge my community. In the beginning one of the Haitian grandmas, Bioude Dorcé, actually scared me a bit. Her domineering and no-nonsense personality was rather daunting, and she was a born leader. Everyone listened to her, children and adults alike. I soon noticed that though she was extremely particular about cleanliness and order and the proper way to do things, she deeply cared and felt a strong sense of responsibility for all those around her. She was very protective of her “children” (biological and spiritual) and always wanted what was best for them.

“Mdme. François”, or “Grann”, as we affectionately called her, was also one of the greatest prayer warriors I have ever known, barring possibly my biological grandmother. She founded and led “Tas Kafe Cho”, a 4:00 a.m. daily prayer service that started in the mission yard and grew so large it had to move to the church in the village. She prayed believing God heard her. For her there was no other reason or motivation to pray. Her response to everything was prayer.

Grann also served with Wilckly and Dee from the beginning of Wilckly taking over directorship of the children’s home. She was their “right-hand-man” for over 30 years. She was mother to them and grandmother to their kids.

Grann went to be with Jesus on March 4th, 2022. We are so glad she is no longer suffering, and we know we haven’t *lost* her, but while we remain on this earth we’ll feel deeply the hole her absence leaves.



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