

Haiti Happenings

“Therefore the Lord waits to be gracious to you, and therefore He exalts Himself to show mercy to you. For the Lord is a God of justice; blessed are all who wait for Him.”
Isaiah 30:18

Shaina Ascone
Summer 2020

Please continue to pray:

- 1. Protection over Wilckly, Dee, and the kids as they serve in Haiti during a time of great instability.**
- 2. For wisdom, clarity, health, energy, and peace for them and all under their leadership.**
- 3. For the means to continue providing for all those under their care in Haiti.**
- 4. For the growth of the ministry.**
- 5. For God’s protection over all of our students and teachers, and those in our churches.**
- 6. For peace for Haiti and its people.**

Dear Family,

Barbeques, family, firework displays, picnics, corn on the cob festive dress, bright colors, parades, flags...most of this likely encompasses what you will be enjoying this weekend (if you are a citizen of the United States) as the day arrives when, every year, most of us drop what we are doing to CELEBRATE. What are we celebrating? Something we in this country tend to place a large emphasis on, have become very proud of, and also perhaps, if I may, often prioritize above all else: our independence. Now, of course this holiday is celebrating our *nation’s* independence as a whole, but isn’t being able to fend for ourselves, care for ourselves, do for ourselves, pay for ourselves, *be* our own self an idea that has become top of the list for achieving the “American Dream”? In many ways we celebrate this achievement every day when we listen to so many voices around us saying to focus on self. Self-_____ (-care, -awareness, -help, -love, -whatever else comes to mind for you).

But things are different this year. At least they are for me. With so much time *away* from others and *too much* time with myself and my own thoughts I find myself longing for community. I have written about this before, what I miss most about Haiti. Being forcibly cut off from others was at first (as an introvert) almost a relief to me (no offense meant). But the longer it lasted and the more I prayed and meditated on Scripture in an attempt to make sense of all that was happening around me the more God reminded me of my need for *dependence* on Him. Whenever I was overwhelmed with fear for my loved ones here, worry for my Haiti family and a helplessness to do anything for them He was the one that calmed me, quieted me, got me through, and kept providing and protecting.

He has also reminded me of my need for interdependence with others. After all, He created community. He said it was “not good” for man to be alone. So He created a companion for him (Genesis 2). We wouldn’t get very far without each other.

There are a lot of opinions and ideas flying around out there lately...crisis always does that to us, doesn’t it? Brings out the best in some and the worst in others. And for anyone like me, it brings out both the best and the worst at the same time. It can be easy to become cynical or bitter as we see some people’s true natures. But whenever my thoughts go in that direction I get a gentle, humbling reminder that what I see in them is also in me...perhaps that is why it is so easy for me to point out. And I can’t let my heart grow hard...I need you. You need me. We need each other. We ALL need each other, no matter how much we sometimes wish we could do it all on our own.

May this holiday be for you a celebration of each other, of community and love; but most of all a celebration of our Lord and Savior, on whom we can *depend* IN ALL THINGS, NO MATTER WHAT.



With Love in Christ,
Shaina Ascone

In other news...

Some of you have asked me what I do for fun. Sometimes I forget to share those parts of my life since I tend to assume they are uninteresting to most of the rest of the world, not to mention these updates are mainly about Haiti. But since at least some of you are curious I thought I'd use this letter to fill you in! Maybe *you* can glean some ideas for hobbies to adopt during the summer months, as well!

- I love **gardening**, even the weeding part. It is relaxing and makes me feel like I am accomplishing something (which helps my mental state a lot lately). I think I developed this love for growing things while in Haiti, surrounded by more nature and simplistic living than ever before. But I'm sure I also come by it honestly, since growing up both my parents and grandparents have at some point had a garden.
- **Biking**. I do strength training, too, but since biking is active AND out of doors it checks every box. I am grateful to live in the country by paved roads so I can ride almost anywhere (I've mostly figured out which roads are dog-free...been chased one too many times)
- **Reading**. This is one I have ALWAYS enjoyed. When I was little I used to get in trouble for reading too much (can you say nerd?). I will read just about anything, as long as it is going to teach me something and isn't scary. Here are a few of the titles I've read lately, in case you want to check them out: [What's Your God Language?](#) by Myra Perrine, [The Undoing of St. Silvanus](#) fiction by Beth Moore, [J.R.R. Tolkien: A Biography](#) by Humphrey Carpenter, [Chasing Francis: A Pilgrim's Tale](#) fiction by Ian Morgan Cron, [7 Men/7 Women](#) by Eric Metaxas, [Barracoon](#) by Zora Neal Hurston, [Till We Have Faces](#) by C.S. Lewis.
- **Photography** is a hobby I inherited from my dad and developed into a skill while in college. I am blessed to be able to use this in my job with BHI when in Haiti and now where I live out in the country there is still plenty of God's beautiful creation to capture.
- **Family**. Not a hobby, but I have always been close to my family, and spending time with them has always been a priority to me *and* fun. I would rather be with my family than do just about anything. Now that we have grown and I have nieces, a nephew, and brothers-in-law our times together are always exciting!

If you would like to make a contribution, please
make checks out to:

Blessing Hearts International

and mail to:

Shaina Ascone
12395 N. 650th Rd.
Macomb, IL 61455

For more information:

E-mail:

smarie87@gmail.com

Website:

<http://blessingheartinternational.com>