

Haiti Happenings

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“Be of good courage, and let us be courageous for our people, and for the cities of our God, and may the Lord do what seems good to Him.”

Isaiah 12:6

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,

I have mentioned before that a few years ago I began prayerfully choosing a "word of the year". These were words I felt described where God was leading me or what He wanted to teach me in the year ahead. Each time something big regarding that word has hit my life. Some of them were painful and hard, others wondrous and long-awaited, and all brought growth, lessons, and so many beautiful reminders of God's grace.

I've been struggling of late with several insecurities and fears, wanting to give in to desires to just remain comfortable and safe. And so this year God led me to the word "brave". Unsurprisingly (or at least it should have been), within hours of the new year breaking I was presented with several opportunities to be just that. My first response was to think "I'm going to stop choosing words of the year..." Actually, my first response was panic. *Then* that thought.

Praise God for a husband who not only is an example of boldly stepping out in faith, but also knows me so well and knows exactly what I need to hear and how I need to hear it. Without discounting my feelings he gently reassured and reminded me of my capabilities, what brings me joy, and of his support. The following morning I read this in my devotions: "Imagine that we could live each moment as a moment pregnant with new life. Imagine that we could live each day as a day full of promises. Imagine that we could walk through the new year always listening to the voice saying to us: 'I have a gift for you and I can't wait for you to see it!' Imagine."

(Henry J.M. Nouwen, [You Are the Beloved](#))

Imagine...

Among grateful and convicted tears I realized God was telling me (through my husband and now through the author of this devotional book) how much MORE He wants for me. How if I let my desire for familiarity and comfort and my fear of failure and the unknown make my decisions I was possibly going to miss out on opportunities to participate in the furthering of His Kingdom in ways I'd never before experienced. I realized I didn't want to miss that. I don't want to miss a **THING** when it comes to Him.

It is frustrating how quickly I forget how much He loves me, how much He wants for me, and how wonderful His plans are for me. It is frustrating when I allow my emotions and anxious tendencies take over and cause me to forget not only what I believe, but what I KNOW of my God through experience. But when He reminds me of these truths all I feel is grateful, humbled relief. No shame. No guilt. His grace only brings amazing peace. And suddenly the security of habits and schedules and familiarity I was striving to cling to is like shifting sand against the security I feel in Him. My rock. HE is my comfort. HE is my familiar.

These are truths I learned over and over while in Haiti, and am realizing since being back that they are truths I am apparently going to be learning the rest of my life, because my tendency is to stay safe, and comfortable, and in what I've always known. But I never would have made it to Haiti in the first place if God hadn't brought my heart to a place of openness...of surrender...of letting go of the "known" and the need to know and feel prepared.

Because: *"...as it is written...no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him."* 1 Corinthians 2:9

In some ways this is the place Haiti is in as well...in the middle of the unknown, with some trying to hang onto the known and others fighting to move forward. It is causing upheaval, desperation, and violent conflict. People are hurting. People are suffering. An end to these trials is nowhere in sight.

Yet even in Haiti now we catch glimpses of the truth of this promise in 1 Corinthians...that God is working good and preparing things beyond our human imaginings. We are seeing women like Marie Yolene, raised by the Dorcés in the children's home, and her husband Wilka, following in their footsteps by sharing what they have with those in need during a time of desperation. We are seeing children provided with a safe place to attend school and adults provided with jobs. We are seeing God open doors to expand the ministry over the border to the Dominican Republic, serving Haitian refugees. We are seeing men like Boss Djon, our construction and masonry foreman, who has worked with Wilckly from the beginning, choosing God and right living after forty years of the Dorcés praying for him. Did you read that? FORTY years. Haiti is not a "quick-fix". Haiti is a "stick-it-out-keep-praying-keep-working-keep-hoping-keep-staying-no-matter-what-even-if-it-means-never-seeing-fruit-in-your-lifetime". God is so gracious to bless us with seeing some of this fruit now.

Thank you for what YOU are doing to keep this ministry going *With Love in Christ, Shaina Thiner*



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