

# Haiti Happenings

Shaina Thiner  
Fall 2022

*“By this we know love, that He laid down His life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers... little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and truth.”*

*1 John 3:16,18*

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,

As I was scrolling through old photos on my backup hard drive last week I found several folders containing hundreds of snapshots that were captured over the course of just a few days during my first months in Haiti, over 13 years ago. During those few days we traveled across more of the country than I had yet seen using various modes of transportation, even some Mdme. Kiki had never before experienced! The most memorable of these ventures was our trek up “Montagne Terrible” (yes, its name is legitimately “The Terrible Mountain”...we weren’t nervous at all when we learned that...yikes) seated precariously upon some very stubborn yet sturdy mules. Though the trip was 4 hours *one way*, I discovered bones and muscles I didn’t know I had, some of the mountain trails were very treacherous (including edges of cliffs, very steep inclines, and crossing tumultuous rivers) and we encountered a torrential downpour on our way back down the mountain (it was quite a feat trying to shield all the expensive camera equipment from the pelting rain while running through thickening mud!), the most memorable part of that day was the welcome we received from the people at the school and church we were visiting.

There was a crowd waiting for us when we arrived, and though the people were quiet and calm there were smiles on most faces, and the greetings were warm and sincere. They brought us chairs to sit on (though none of us really wanted to sit after 4 hours on a pack-mule we obliged) and some of the sweetest grapefruit juice I have ever tasted to refresh us before beginning a two-hour long church service and celebration. They couldn’t believe we had come to visit *them*, that we cared about *them* enough to come all that way, behind the mountains, over and around more mountains, and up to the top of another mountain.

It makes me think about my life now, back in the U.S., and all of us as followers of Jesus...what am I doing (what are we doing) in my current place, in my current circles, in my current season of life to make sure those around me know I love them? Even back then, if I’m being honest, my first thought wasn’t for those we were visiting...it was a mixture of euphoric excitement in the film-like adventure I was experiencing and self-pity for my aching body. It wasn’t until we reached the people at the top of the mountain that I was reminded what my real reason was for doing what I was doing. My real reason for being in Haiti. And here, now...sometimes it seems like it’s too much to ask for me to give up some precious “me time” to focus on those around me. It’s time for a shift.

I am so thankful for the photos I took during my time in Haiti. Time and again they serve to remind me of something I learned then that I desperately need to re-learn. As counter-cultural as this truth is, God hasn’t placed us on this earth to be comfortable, nor happy, nor even safe. He has a bigger, a better, purpose for us. We are here to be image-bearers of Him. Others ought to be able to look at us and hear us and think, “Oh, that’s what God is like.” And what better way to portray Him than to give up some of our comforts, some of our time, some of our resources, some of ourselves, to show those around us that we care...that *He* cares? It is the least we can do...for *He* sacrificed His very life.

With Love in Christ,  
Shaina Thiner



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