

Dave just returned from Haiti and this update offers a glimpse of the people he met and purpose for the trip. As we approach Thanksgiving Day in the US, join us in thanking the Lord for his work through our global partnerships. And “Mesi anpil” (Haitian Creole for thank you very much) for your prayers and support through the years! Dave and Joyce



The Sermon on the Mount and the Epistle of James - Sixty-five pastors gathered to study these sections of God’s Word and the interaction was lively. Though comprised of various levels of education, the group was keen to study and dig into the text. It’s no surprise that Matthew 5:21-48 yielded important conversations about cultural and biblical themes for the Haitian church. The group was turned loose into small groups in order to compare Jesus’ view of the law in contrast to the Pharisee’s cultural understanding. Divorce, adultery, truth-telling, the value of life, retaliation, and love for enemies were themes studied and reported on by the groups. As one might imagine, the ability to clarify and understand Jesus’ view of life brings health to the church and God’s people.

As Rick Defilippo and I taught the Sermon on the Mount, we were encouraged by the group’s response despite extremely warm temperatures. Clearly, the Sermon speaks to their current scene and their grasp of Jesus’ words is pivotal for life and leadership in his church. In a country with so many disparate issues, it was good to see a growing connection between these pastors and church leaders. In the end, there was common agreement that following Jesus is counter to all pharisaical religious ideas. **Pray that Christ’s words might ring true in their hearts for years to come.**



In addition, Craig Coughlin taught from the book of James and emphasized that the gospel is not based on works, rather it yields a faith that is displayed by works. Because many of the themes in the Sermon on the Mount are found in James, God used these two parts of Scripture to address common misinterpretations found in Haitian church leadership. We thank God for the privilege of teaching these crucial sections of God’s Word over the entire week.



A Response of Thanksgiving

*Give thanks for the response of the pastors to the study of Scripture.
Give thanks that Bibles and materials were distributed for future study.
Give thanks for the Givingall partners serving daily in Haiti.
Give thanks that this Haitian vision of pastoral training is growing.*



Serving Christ in Partnership - Our hosts in this beautiful yet troubled country were Whistler and Judith Saint Louis (the couple at the center of the picture). Whistler is a physician, yet because of the broken Haitian hospital and medical system he is not able to find a position that offers income for his family. As a result, he uses his considerable entrepreneurial skills to find ways to live in Port-au-Prince and still serve the people of Arniquet through medical and ministry outreach. Judith works in a Port-au-Prince library and has vast hospitality gifts. Together they coordinated the Pastors Conference and are the driving force behind *Givingall* ministry in the Arniquet area.

The other Haitian leader is Jovani Robuste, a graduate of a Port-au-Prince theological school. His skill in leading worship and understanding Haitian culture is outstanding. Craig Coughlin (orange shirt) is the *Givingall* director and Rick Defilippo is a *Givingall* Board member (blue shirt). Their heart for Haiti is immense as they seek to make a difference by creatively partnering together. Spending time with these Haitian and *Givingall* leaders was an honor and a privilege. **Pray for Whistler, Judith, Jovani, and Givingall, as they serve Christ together in the upcoming year.**

Our vision is to encourage and equip less-resourced Majority World pastors and church leaders through biblical teaching and development of biblical resources. By partnering with global churches, mission groups and Theological Institutions, we will assist national church leaders as they nurture pastors and develop emerging leaders to the glory of God.

Go to the “support” page on our www.partnershipsfortraining.org to discover ways that you can support this ministry as we move to year’s end.

Future Ministry Partnership with *Givingall*? - One afternoon, I traveled with the leaders up a nearby mountain to talk about pastoral training. As a vista opened up, I viewed some of the landscape damaged by Hurricane Matthew in 2016. The area took a direct hit, trees were snapped in half, and many people died. Recovery is still happening. In a similar way, the church in the Arniquet region is recovering from the devastating winds of false theology and cultural religious beliefs. Pastoral training is needed.



Though a small organization, *Givingall* is committed to serving with Haitian believers for a multi-faceted impact on the region. Pastoral training is an important part of that vision. It seems clear that we will act as a sounding board to the ideas and plans *Givingall* is developing for future pastoral training. Being this type of resource can include evaluating and developing curriculum, as well as teaching a course when our travel schedule permits. Thanks Lord for opening up this relationship!

A Need for an Interpreter

Haitian Creole is a fascinating language, filled with rhythms and exquisite sounds. Its vocabulary is derived from many other languages, especially French and English, and is enjoyable to hear as it is spoken. I mastered a few phrases, like “Bonjou” (Hello) and “Mesi’ anpil” (thank you). I tried to use “mwenn kontan rekonner ou” (I am happy to meet you) as often as possible, but it didn’t always sound the same when I greeted people. Let’s face it, the ability to speak through an interpreter, with a heart grasp of the language, is a much-needed part of communication.

Once again, this Haitian experience reminded me of the Holy Spirit’s work in our lives. Unless he interprets God’s Word and points us to the deeper meaning of Scripture, we only live at an introductory level in our relationship with the Lord. As the Spirit instructs our hearts and minds, we see the beauty and rhythm of God’s grace through Jesus Christ.

A Year End Gift? - At the October 9th meeting, the Partnerships Accountability Group set a goal of \$30,000 for year-end giving in order to help reach the 2019 budget of \$126,000. This budget figure reflects our expected response to increased opportunities coming our way. We are grateful that Joyce is traveling to many of the locations and as one can imagine her impact has been significant. If you are interested in sending a year-end gift, go to the support page on www.partnershipsfortraining.org for details. Thanks for considering this request.

Details for Dave’s Upcoming Uganda Trip

November 24 – 25 – Travel from Philadelphia to Boston – Amsterdam – Entebbe.

November 26 – 30 – *Training the Trainers* Session in Kampala where we will study the Ephesian Church as described in New Testament. Also, part of this Session will consider the impact of Islam on the church in Uganda.

December 1 – Meet with Masaka regional leaders to review material for *January 2019 Pastors and Church Leaders Training*.

December 2 – Full day at Kampala Baptist Church.

December 3 – Wrap-up details and fly back to the Ithaca by way of Amsterdam, and Detroit.

December 4 – Arrive in Ithaca at 5:13 pm.

Prayer Requests

Pray for the *Training of Trainers* Sessions that is focusing on developing a multi-generational impact of local churches in Uganda through a study of the Ephesian Church in the New Testament.

Pray for God’s wisdom as we meet with Masaka leaders on December 1st to finalize plans for 2019.

Pray for John Givens, a Massachusetts friend, as he travels with Dave and participates in the *Training of Trainers* by sharing his educational expertise.

Pray for the participants in the *Training of Trainers* Session as they study and prepare to train others.

Give thanks for the partners in Uganda and around the globe as we serve the Lord together.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Contact Dave and Joyce Jones at dave@partnershipsfortraining.org - 607-273-1614.

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