



# Helping Haiti's Orphans

James 1:27  
Espere Kay

# September 2020 Newsletter



*Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks - John 4:23*

We are happy to report Espere Kay is once again filled with God's praises! For over three years while we were living with the young adults you would constantly hear praise music in the house. Someone would play it on their phone or pick up an instrument and start playing. The girls often sang while doing the laundry or cooking. The boys would play it while doing chores like sweeping or the dishes. It was during this time Dave learned to play guitar and Deb learned to play keyboard, all with the sole purpose of glorifying God. We would all join together once a week and have worship with our Bible study. As the directors, we had our own private times of worship and prayer. Junior and his group would gather downstairs with Stevenson and practice. Not a day went by when the Lord's praises were not ringing out through the windows. That's one of the unique things about Haiti, you can turn up your music and it's culturally acceptable. This can be both a blessing and a curse. For example, when the house church in the ravine behind our home meets for evening prayer and they start singing, that is a blessing. When Voodoo drums start beating or someone starts blasting dance party music until 2 AM, not so much. Everyone's windows are open here and really nothing is very private. That's life in Haiti. Again, for years, Espere Kay rang out with praises. Then we had to shut down the house. For eight, long months it stood empty, quiet, still. Now, Espere Kay is once again a house of light and praise! What happened? We are excited to share just that with you in this month's newsletter.

## Sweet Reunions

*For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God - Colossians 1:9-10*

Upon our return, after we cleaned and fixed the house, we told the young adults they could finally come visit. They came in small groups. There were big smiles and hugs all around. It is an extra special blessing to watch the young men hug Dave. Most of these guys do not have godly father figures in their lives so Dave's hugs are a beautiful expression of God's love for

## Sweet Reunions cont.

them. There is also an ease and comfort between all of us having lived together for so long. Espere Kay feels like a second home to the young adults. They come right in and make themselves comfortable. They know they are welcome anytime, we just ask them to send us a text in advance. Some have come weekly to charge phones and just hang out, do homework, play cards, etc. The first night Stevenson was here, he picked up the guitar and we had a spontaneous night of worship. We have also had the opportunity to greet our neighbors. We can see by their smiles how happy they are we have returned. Things in the country have been very difficult as of late. This has taken a toll on everyone. Many missionaries have left. Our coming back is like a nod from God letting them know there is hope and we have not forgotten them.



## Worship and Bible Study

*But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect – 1 Peter 3:15*



We began two weeks ago with a worship night. Not everyone was able to attend because there was a call for more protests. For those who did come, we sang together in English, Creole and French. To hear our voices in harmony once again was such a blessing. We also prayed together. Then this past week we had our first Bible Study. Everyone came, praise God! Our text was 1Peter 3: 15. We discussed the importance of thinking about our testimony and being ready to share it with others. We talked about why this is important to God in growing His Kingdom and to other people in encouraging them both in life and for salvation. We asked them some thought provoking questions and they came up with some great responses. We challenged them to not only think about their testimonies but to write them down and to be prepared to share them. The rest of the evening was filled with worship and prayer. Our hearts are so full of joy!

## Individual Meetings

*And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching - Hebrews 10:24-25*



We started holding individual meetings with each young adult to discuss their spiritual life, education, finances and personal life. What a special time this has been. These young adults need lots of encouragement right now. We are going over each aspect of the yearly contract agreement with them that they signed last year. They are letting us know how they are doing in each area. Where are they struggling? What things are going well? How can we be praying for them? In September we met with Olivier, Mirlande and Jesula. We are happy to announce both Olivier and Mirlande passed their exams and will be moving on to their next year of high school. Olivier is now in his last year and Mirlande in her next to last year. Jesula is taking exams next month at her university. Her school year ends next March and then, if she passes, she will begin her new year that same month. We ask all of you to please join with us in praying for all of our young adults. They have had a rough year and it is taking a toll emotionally. Many are asking for prayers to stay close to God. They know how important this is. Please also pray for their school year, that it would be safe and they would do well in school. We will be sending sponsors updates throughout the year as grades are made available. So far everyone is doing well budgeting their money. Most say they are doing well in their personal lives. They do have concerns about where the country is headed economically, politically and with security. Haiti needs lots of prayer.

## URGENT Prayer Request

*The seven years of abundance in Egypt came to an end, and the seven years of famine began, just as Joseph had said. There was famine in all the other lands, but in the whole land of Egypt there was food - Genesis 41:53-54*

When we arrived in Haiti at the end of August, we were able to exchange US dollars (US\$) for Haitian gourdes (htg) at the rate of 120 htg per US\$. This was about 30% higher than when we were here last December when the rate was 92 htg per US\$. Inflation for 2020 is about 26% according to government reports.

HOWEVER, since then, the exchange rate has declined significantly. The day I am writing this, the exchange rate is 60 htg per US\$, a 50% decline since we arrived 31 short days ago. In addition to this, the Haitian government has now dictated that as of October 1st, all money transfers to Haiti must be done in Haitian gourdes.

## URGENT Prayer Request cont.

In protest of this decree, many of the transfer agents have shut their doors. This causes many issues for our ministry. First, the rent for the young adult's homes is coming due for the year and must be paid in US\$. We currently do not have sufficient US\$ in Haiti to pay for all of the rents. Second, when paying for school for several of the young adults, the price in US\$ doubled from what it was a month ago. Fortunately, the cost is only about 35% more than our budget, nonetheless a significant blow. Third, this impacts all of the costs for food and basic needs of the young adults. We were able to give them a little extra for the month of October, but unless the price of food and basic needs drops to be commensurate with the drop in the exchange rate, the financial struggle will get worse for our young adults and all Haitians. There are many rumors floating around about how low the exchange rate will go, and if any of them come true, it will not be good for this already struggling economy.

On top of the problems with the Haitian exchange rate, we have recently lost several sponsors due to financial hardships stemming from the pandemic.

Our prayer requests:

- The cost of products here in Haiti decreases to be in line with the drop in value of the Haitian gourde and the exchange rate stabilizes.
- That you prayerfully consider financial support of our young adults. Praise be to God, like Joseph in our above scripture, we currently have some funds in our storehouse we can draw on to help cover our costs in short term, but they will not last for long.
- A safe and effective solution to getting the US\$ into Haiti to pay for the yearly rent for the young adult's homes.

**Thank you for your faithful prayers.**

**God Bless,  
Dave & Deb**