

The SAÜL Family



Serving the Lord in Haiti

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Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth. Psalm 46:10

One of the things my wife learned in her first few months in Haiti was how to survive the hot summer nights when the air is humid and oppressive. It's very simple. Just don't move. Stay as still as you can, for as long as you can (or at least until a mosquito comes buzzing around!)

So often in life, when problems arise, we find ourselves tossing and turning, creating more heat and discomfort trying to come up with our own solutions. All the while, God is calling us to remain still, listen to Him, and trust that He will provide the answers. The ongoing crisis in

Haiti is teaching us what it means to trust in God's sovereign plan. Lately, many people have asked about the situation. I will do my best to answer some of the most frequently asked questions below.

Are we planning to evacuate?

At this time, no. Even though about 90% of missionaries and expats have left, we are still sheltering in place on campus. We thank those of you who have offered to assist us in finding a way out, however, we feel the Lord calling us to stay for now.

Even if we wanted to leave, the road to the Port-au-Prince airport is completely controlled by gangs, who are kidnapping and abusing people in unimaginable ways. The only other airport is in Cap Haitian, yet the road there is also inaccessible due to a collapsed bridge and frequent attacks on travelers. The small charter planes that previously flew in and out of the nearest town have paused operations.

Our ministry responsibilities and the amount of people in need who are depending on us have greatly increased due to the situation. Although it is overwhelming at times, we thank God we are in a position to directly assist so many families and individuals.

How are we surviving?

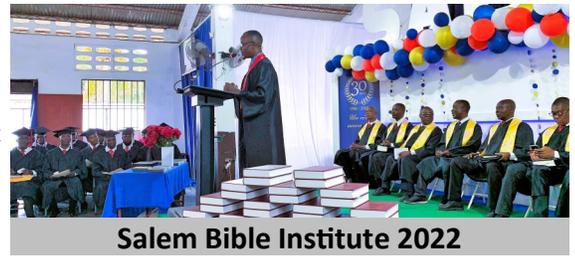
Bassin has always been a farming community, yet for the past few years we've experienced several droughts, resulting in a decline in the amount and quality of produce. However, God has provided for us in miraculous ways. Using pumped water from our well, my father designed a drip irrigation system and planted a small garden of plantains and bananas as pictured on the right. The Lord blessed his labor and faith, and we now have a steady stream of plantains to feed not only our family and staff, but many families in the community. On Sundays, we serve ripe bananas and crackers for breakfast before the service begins. During the week, bananas are shared at choir rehearsals, youth activities, and with clinic staff and patients. We praise the Lord for His provision and blessing in this way.



How are the different ministries functioning?

- Just like the rest of Haiti, our elementary school has still not reopened for the 2022-23 school year. Thankfully, we've been able to financially assist our teachers and school staff during this difficult season.
- Our church still meets regularly, even though many others have had to shut down for safety reasons. In fact, our church attendance has increased due to many families who have fled the cities and university students waiting for schools to reopen. On Wednesday nights, we host more than 70 young adults for devotions, worship, and games.
- The children's ministry continues to function both here and through our mission churches. My mother, Maude, has been meeting several times a week to train about a dozen individuals interested in child evangelism. With several decades of experience leading our children's department, she has enjoyed sharing her wealth of knowledge with fresh and energetic workers!

- Back in August, SALEM Bible Institute was a great success with 140 preachers in attendance. It was God's timing that the students and staff were able to travel to and from their hometowns safely, as the lockdown began shortly after. Thank you for your prayers and support for this ministry.



Salem Bible Institute 2022

How can you pray?

- ◇ Living costs have never been so outrageous. Gas prices dropped to about \$20 USD/gallon due to an arrangement at the port between the gangs and the gas tankers, allowing them to distribute once again. Yet the tankers still must go through multiple gang zones to get to our area, so the pumps here are not yet open.
- ◇ Usually, now is the time we would be making preparations for our annual youth retreat in February. The cost for each participant used to be \$25 USD for the 5-day event. However, at this time we cannot predict costs or even whether or not this event will take place.
- ◇ Five years ago, the Good Shepherd Clinic was blessed with a special donation from an anonymous source. It was the donor's will that we receive \$20,000 each year from that fund. That amount, in addition to a few other gifts, has allowed us to improve conditions, hire additional staff, and cover operational and payroll expenses. This year we received the final payment from that fund. Pray for God's provision for the clinic in the coming year.
- ◇ Pray for the political situation, which seems to get more complex and unpredictable each day.

Even though it feels like we are in the middle of a storm, the fact that God is still using us to reach the lost is beyond what we could have asked or hoped for. Pray for our strength and courage to remain faithful to His calling.

This is a picture of a Wednesday evening youth group meeting



Royden Saul & Family

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