



Supporting the Haitian ministries of Sam Rice, R.N.

Gospel Growers, Inc.
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Attention:
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Dear Sponsors and Friends,

"Trust in Him at all times" Psalm 62:8

Perhaps some of you may remember that last May I had a visit from some bandits. Well, almost to the day, I have again just had a similar experience. We (me and 3 others) were on our way back from Cayes where we had done several errands such as banking, purchase medicine, mail letters, etc. It's a 4 hour drive from Dariol to Cayes and 4 hours back again. The dirt road from Dariol comes to the paved highway after 3 hours and then it's another hour to Cayes. We were glad to be a short distance from Dariol and it was only 10 am. Certain sections of the road are especially bad so you must go slowly, and there are lonely stretches where there are no houses. As we slowed to descend a hill we spotted 2 guys by the side of the road. I thought perhaps they were going to ask for a ride - no such thing! My driver slowed and stopped as they revealed 4 revolvers they previously had hidden under their shirts. You can imagine the sinking feeling we had as we realized this was a hold-up.

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There have been a number kidnappings recently in Port-au-Prince and this has caused terror among the population. Believe me, we were all silently praying FERVENTLY during this entire episode. They made my driver get out, empty his pockets and then while one held a gun to Pradel's head (my driver) the other bandit got into the drivers seat, put the truck in gear and pulled off the road with the 3 of us into the brush. The bandit followed with Pradel on foot. They told us that if we didn't give them all the money we had they'd shoot Pradel, and to show they meant business the one bandit took Pradel a distance further into the brush. The bandit who frisked us wasn't at all happy with the take and kept insisting for more, especially "the American money". We emptied everything and finally he had to admit we had no more. He signaled his friend to come back with Pradel, gave him the truck keys and said "get lost and don't look back!" We thankfully complied!

(continued on back)

What made this experience worse was the fact that the "frisker" let slip certain information that only someone in Dariol could know. That meant that someone in Dariol had set us up, and informed the bandits when we had left and were likely to return. The bandits chose where to ambush us. As you may imagine, my driver was very upset. He urged us to leave the area as this was no doubt the work of a gang that had recently formed near Dariol (what with drug activities). Some gangs have left the capitol due to police pressure and have re-grouped in the countryside, where there are few, if any, police.

This called for prayer and planning. After 3 days, we got up while it was still dark and came back to Cayes, where I've been able to secure lodging. The clinic will have to be closed for time being. An army whose supply lines are cut is in big trouble. Every time I sent or went out for funds or supplies we'd face another possible ambush. The gang could pick and choose the time and place.

Please put us on all the prayer lists that you can think of. We want the Lord to resolve this difficult situation somehow. The schools, Radio Station and Bible Study Seminars will continue without my being in Dariol. They will come to Cayes to report and receive funds. After 23 years in Haiti, all three of my bandit experiences have occurred within the last 2 years. The economic decline and unemployment, as well as higher prices and increased drug activity, have all contributed towards this terrible situation. I am confident that Romans 8:28 shows in everything the Lord can bring good out of bad. By your prayers the Lord is going to resolve this crisis. It is for Him to decide how and when. Of course the real culprit behind this is Satan. He's angered at the success the ministry is having. Just remember 2 Kings 6:16. The battle isn't finished yet!

Psalm 37:7 Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for Him.

Blessings,
Sam

A NOTE FROM THE BOARD:

When the Lord closes one door He opens another... We have secured an apartment in Cayes for Sam's temporary relocation and his safety where he has another new ministry there with the "street" children. This growing number of orphaned and abandoned children are now hearing the Good News of God's Love for them. The people of Haiti desperately need your prayers.

Dear Don,

Sam is O.K. - lots of rain & wind, trees down
crops lost, some homes damaged